Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Sep 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Peace Process, Italy Visit *[Rome TV]* 4
PA To Receive Jerusalem Arabs' Tax Files *[AL-NAHAR 6 Sep]* 4
'Abbas on Hebron, Jerusalem, Israeli Elections *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 6 Sep]* 4
Fatah Said Leaning Toward Deputy for 'Arafat *[AL-NAHAR 6 Sep]* 5
Fatah's 'Abbas Zaki Returns to 'Homeland' *[Jericho VOP]* 5

Arab-Israeli Talks

Self-Rule Negotiations Continue in Taba 6
Peres, Quray' Comment *[MENA]* 6
Jerusalem TV Reports Progress on Hebron 6
'Arafat-Peres Meeting Still in Progress *[Jericho VOP]* 7
'Arafat Adviser on Hebron, Water *[MENA]* 7
Talks End Without Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
VOP Reports No Agreement on Hebron *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Peres on Agreement on Transfer of Powers *[Cairo Radio]* 9
'Arafat on Obstacles in Negotiations *[MENA]* 9
PLO Rejects Outline of Rural Areas for IDF Redeployment *[HATZOFE 8 Sep]* 9
Histadrut Agrees To Repay Debt to Palestinian Union *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Israel's Liba'i, PA Prosecutor Discuss Crime Suspects *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Abu-Middayn Comments on Talks *[Cairo International]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Car Bomb Injures 11 in Algiers Suburbs *[MAP]* 12
TV Department Chief's Body Recovered *[Algiers TV]* 12
FIS' Abdelkader Omar 'in Hiding' After Harassment *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Sep]* 12
FIS' Kebir on Political Situation, Elections *[London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH 8 Sep]* 12
Observers To Monitor Presidential Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Journalists Say Fundamentalists Seek To Gag Press *[Algiers Radio]* 15
FIS European Supporters Issue Newletter *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 5 Sep]* 15

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives, Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 17
Commentary Addresses Sudanese 'Dangers' to Region *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Indonesia *[MENA]* 18
Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Interviewed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 3-9 Sep]* 18
Journalists' Statement Urges True Democracy *[MENA]* 22

Libya

'Around 30' Dead as Police Clash With 'Militants' *[AFP]* 22
Interior Minister Denies Clashes *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Sep]* 23
Official Refutes Reports *[AFP]* 23
Official Source Denies 'Lies' of Western Media *[JANA]* 23
Sudanese Workers Deported as Security Threat *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Opposition Says Sudan Scheming Against Country *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Palestinians Declare Support for 'Collective Return' *[JANA]* 24
Editor Denounces U.S. Mobilization in Gulf *[JANA]* 24

Morocco

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Saddam Message *[INA]* 25
Prime Minister Receives Egyptian Economy Minister *[Rabat Radio]* 25
Trade Protocol Signed *[MAP]* 25
Prime Minister To Lead Islamic Delegation on Bosnia *[Rabat Radio]* 25
French Judicial Delegation Visits, Signs Accord *[Rabat TV]* 26

Sudan

SPLM-SPLA Forces Reportedly Repulse Offensive *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* 26
Former Prime Minister Gives Friday Prayer Sermon *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Government Said Not To Keep Prisoner-Release Accord *[AFP]* 27

Oman

State Minister Returns Home From Iran Visit *[WAKH]* 27

Qatar

Tunisian Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Tunis Radio]* 27

Yemen

President Leaves for Medical Checkups in U.S. *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Husayn Kamil Says Russia Lied in Denying Tank Order *[AFP]* 29
'Sources' Dismiss Russian Denial of Tank Deal *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Sep]* 29
National Assembly To Meet on Saddam Nomination *[Baghdad TV]* 30
Saddam Referendum Decision on Reelection 'Sham' *[AFP]* 30
RCC Issues Decrees Amending Constitution *[Baghdad TV]* 30
Canceled Paragraphs Provided *[Baghdad TV]* 32
Five Dead, 9 Hurt in Second Blast in Irbil *[AFP]* 32
KDP Representative Says 10 'Terrorists' Killed *[Ankara TV]* 33
KDP Condemns Explosion Targeting Kurdish Leader *[MENA]* 33
Islamic Opposition Rejects 'Foreign Interference' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 33
Paper Hails Egypt-Syria 'Awakening' on Iraq *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 6 Sep]* 34
Daily Assails U.S. Role, 'Hatred' Toward Iraq *[INA]* 35
Bulletin Says Iraq Considering Pipeline to Jordan *[AFP]* 35
Saddam Asked To Hand Rajavi to Iran *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 21 Jul]* 36
Poisoned Opposition Activists Hospitalized in Iran *[IRNA]* 39
U-2 Plane 'Violations' Protested to UN *[INA]* 39
Saddam Cables Qatari Amir on National Day *[INA]* 39
Ramadan Receives Turkish Welfare Party Deputy Leader *[Baghdad TV]* 39
Ramadan Receives Chinese Workers' Delegation *[INA]* 40
National Assembly's Legal Committee To Meet 9 Sep *[Baghdad TV]* 40
Saddam's Wife Briefed on Embargo Impact on Women *[INA]* 40
Impact of Sanctions on Children Detailed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Jul]* 40
Military College Said Camp for 'Theoretical Studies' *[Voice of the People]* 42

ISRAEL

U.S.-Run Early Warning Stations in Golan Discussed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 43
Peace With Syria Seen as Electoral Asset to Clinton *[HA'ARETZ 7 Sep]* 43
Syrian Motives for Freeze in Talks Viewed *[MA'ARIV 5 Sep]* 44
Signing Ceremony With Palestinians Downplayed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 45
'Arafat Tape Urging 'Savage Battle' Released *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 45
Sarid: Evacuation of Hebron Jews Not Discussed in Taba *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
'Jewish Underground' Said To Plan Orient House Takeover *[Jerusalem TV]* 46
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Advisory Against Bus Travel *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 46

JORDAN

King Husayn Discusses Iraq, Regional Issues *[Amman Radio]* 48
Hasan Receives Message From Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim *[AL-RA'Y 8 Sep]* 52
Energy Minister Postpones Visit to Iraq *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Sep]* 52
Ex-Foreign Minister on Defections, U.S. Policy *[AL-KHALIJ 12 Aug]* 53
Al-Kabariti: U.S. Initiative on Bosnia 'Unclear' *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Sep]* 54
Columnist: Interests With Iraq Linked to Saddam *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Sep]* 55

LEBANON

Buwayz Denies Return of Palestinians From Libya *[VOL]* 56
Measures Adopted To Ban Libyan Ship From Entering Port *[MENA]* 56
Official Confirms Palestinians Arrive From Libya *[VOL]* 56
Libyan Ambassador Confirms Arrival *[VOL]* 57
Al-Hirawi Addresses U.S. Travel Ban in Speech *[Beirut Radio]* 58
Hizballah Guide Links Iraq Situation to 'U.S. Plan' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Sep]* 58
Three SLA Soldiers Reportedly Injured by Bomb *[Voice of the South]* 59
Hizballah Claims Responsibility *[Beirut Radio]* 59
Birri, al-Hariri Continue Meetings in Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 59
Al-Hariri Returns, Holds Meeting With al-Hirawi *[VOL]* 60
Minister Junblatt Views South, Peace, Iraq *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 26 Aug]* 60

SYRIA

Paper Urges U.S. Intervention in Peace Process *[SANA]* 62
Papers Blame Israelis for Stalemate in Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 62
Talabani Meets Khaddam, Iraqi Oppositionists *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 63
Economic Agreement Signed With Yemen *[Damascus Radio]* 63

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Statement Issued on Pakistan Embassy Events *[Kabul Radio]* 64
Defense Ministry Sends Message to Army Personnel *[Kabul Radio]* 64
Dostam Forces Threaten To Shoot Down Airliners *[PAKISTAN NEWS SERVICE]* 65
Government Forces Clear Villages of Dostam Militia *[Kabul Radio]* 65
Government Denies Reports on Fall of Badakhshan *[Kabul Radio]* 65
Taleban Reportedly Captures Western Province *[AFP]* 66

Bangladesh

Zia Call for OIC Meeting on Bosnia Supported *[Dhaka Radio]* 66
Three Reportedly Dead After Indian Aircraft Crashes *[AFP]* 66
Zia Returns From Beijing UN Conference on Women *[Dhaka Radio]* 66
Commentary on Prime Minister's Visit to Beijing *[Dhaka Radio]* 67
Role of U.S. Official in Crisis Solution Viewed *[THE MORNING SUN 5 Sep]* 67
Police Cordon Off Parliament in General Strike *[AFP]* 68
Capital Observes Strike Called by Opposition Groups *[Dhaka Radio]* 69
Editorial Views Political Climate, Investment *[THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS 26 Aug]* 69

India

Journalists Said Injured in 'Powerful' Bomb Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Kashmir Government Renews Appeal To Free Hostages *[Delhi Radio]* 70
'Separatist Group' Unveils Hostage Rescue Plan *[AFP]* 70
Minister Discusses Cooperation With Iranian Envoy *[IRNA]* 71
Report Addresses Plane Project With PRC, ROK *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 29 Aug]* 71
Antidumping Duty Imposed on PRC Potassium *[Delhi Radio]* 71
Article Discusses Government's Economic Policy *[THE HINDU 26 Aug]* 72

Iran

Imam Yazdi Sermon Assails U.S. Gulf Presence *[Tehran Radio]* 73
Further on Yazdi Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 74
Report on Foreign Assistance to Nuclear Program *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 74
Syrian, Turkish Officials Attend Meeting on Iraq *[IRNA]* 75
Velayati Stresses Territorial Integrity *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Cases of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN *[IRNA]* 75
Support Reported for OIC Muslim Government Summit *[IRNA]* 75
Velayati Comments on Plans for Bosnia Situation *[IRNA]* 76
Ministry Expresses Concern Over Afghan Situation *[Tehran International]* 76
Spokesman Calls For End to Afghan Infighting *[IRNA]* 76
Velayati, Bangladesh Counterpart Discuss Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 76
Ambassador Discusses Ties With Kuwaiti Officials *[IRNA]* 77
UK Official's Visit Seen as 'Opportunity' for Ties *[IRNA]* 77
Radio Reports on New Foreign Immigration Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 77
'Editorial' Views New Refugee Policy *[IRNA]* 78
Minister Says Country Prepared To Join WTO *[IRNA]* 78
Wheat Production To Rise 4 Million Tons Annually *[IRNA]* 79
Funeral Service Reportedly Ends in Confrontation *[London KEYHAN 20 Jul]* 79

Pakistan

Officials Describe Attack on Kabul Embassy, Staff 80
Foreign Office Head Comments on Attack *[Islamabad TV]* 80
Ambassador in Kabul Gives Details *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
President Leghari Departs on Turkmenistan Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
Bhutto Views Kashmir, Indian Ties, MQM Talks *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 26 Aug]* 81
MQM Offers 'Peace Formula' to Government *[THE MUSLIM 6 Sep]* 86
Radio Reports 7 Killed in Karachi Incidents *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Bhutto, Politicians Discuss Punjab Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Bhutto-Opponent Political Battle Looms in Punjab *[AFP]* 87

Sri Lanka

Minister Sets Condition for Talks With LTTE *[Colombo International]* 87
Parliament Passes Motion To Extend Emergency *[Colombo International]* 87
Reportage on Passenger Ferry Held by Tamil Rebels 88
Rebels Demand Exchange for 'Fighters' *[AFP]* 88
Rebels Agree To Free Passengers *[AFP]* 88

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Sep

NC0709201795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor's Husayn Draws Lessons From Algerian Experience
2. Beijing Conference Seen Promoting Immorality
3. POW Killings Recounted, Discussed by Seminar
4. Iraq Case Behind Cool Egyptian, Jordanian Relations
5. Algerian Islamist Intellectual Interviewed

LABOR'S HUSAYN DRAWS LESSONS FROM ALGERIAN EXPERIENCE

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, in a 4,500-word article on page 5, urges all opposition political parties to close ranks before the People's Assembly elections. The article, "We Present These Two Lessons from Algeria to Our Rulers and the Opposition Parties," begins by criticizing the National Democratic Party's [NDP] continuing hold on power in Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's style of governing.

Husayn disputes Mubarak's assertion that the longevity of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government is a sign of stability, reminding him that Egypt has also seen a period of economic recession. He faults Mubarak's declaration, during a recent interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH, that he solicits the views of advisers and experts in every field but avoids appointing permanent advisers for fear of creating new "spheres of power." Husayn explains that this method does not work:

"The overall picture of Egypt's conditions and its foreign relations is found in the mind of the president alone. The expert who is consulted is asked about the technical detail of an issue but knows nothing about the overall picture or the general policies. Consequently his opinion will necessarily be deficient and incomplete."

He attacks the continuing enforcement of the Emergency Law and criticizes the government's assertion that this law is less stringent than "Clinton's Antiterrorism Law:"

The writer goes on: "By God, it is a great injustice to say that the United States under Clinton's law will become like us under the Emergency Law. It is not an issue of a sharp difference between a law here and its equivalent elsewhere. The entire political system is different. Freedom of thought and the press in democratic societies is part of a system based on a person's right to protect his beliefs, his life, honor, and possessions. All this is guaranteed by laws that apply to great and small alike and buttressed by establishments, institutions, and political parties. How can you make a comparison in this case?"

Husayn focuses on the need to "keep the general elections free of forgery" as "a first step toward political reform and the transfer of power to a new government." He criticizes Mubarak for not responding to a memorandum, jointly drafted by the opposition political parties, the basic demand of which was to have honest elections.

The writer says that what he calls this presidential disregard should be confronted by further, stronger action by the opposition, including presenting the memorandum at an "international news conference," holding a massive public rally, and informing political parties abroad and international organizations, including the Interparliamentary Union, of what is happening in Egypt. He presses his call for the opposition's unity, at least on some basic tenets, including Egyptian political work falling within the context of Islam and the application of shari'ah, which he says some political parties oppose.

Turning to the Algerian lessons he wants the Egyptian Government and opposition parties to learn, he says the Algerian Army's cancellation of the result of the 1991 general election, which would have brought the Islamists to power, merely made things worse. It ruined the Algerian economy and fostered a climate of violence in which 50,000 have died, with an additional 1,000 new deaths every month. He faults the Algerian authorities for rejecting dialogue with the opposition and for insisting on holding a presidential election the only purpose of which is "to give false legitimacy to the bloody, despotic government."

He reproaches the Egyptian Government for backing Algeria's "military clique" and "taking pride in the cooperation of the two countries' security services." He says the government's backing of the Algerian authorities goes beyond "its hostility to the Islamic reawakening."

He goes on: "I believe, as the Algerian patriotic parties do, that the issue goes beyond this. Our government, like Algeria's, wants to consolidate its despotism, and, under the pretext of fighting 'the fundamentalism that seeks to take us back to the ages of darkness,' is actually resisting the principle of the transfer of power by general elections."

He warns the government: "Seeing that these attempts are miserable and shortsighted, we advise the rulers to handle the Algerian experience in another way.

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The triumph of democracy in Algeria is coming, God willing. Just as bloody violence appeared and increased after the 1991 elections were abolished, the same thing will happen in our country if the next elections are hideously rigged. This is a moral you must draw on instead of lending support to your tyrannical brothers over there."

In a reference to Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and its attitude to democratic rule, 'Adil Husayn notes that it has been trying to disperse fears that it will rule despotically if it comes to power:

"As for the FIS in particular, it has learned by experience that its position on the democratic method was not clear in 1991 and that it was not clear if it could subsequently be removed from power by new general elections. The FIS realized that fear of it becoming totalitarian and despotic after gaining power was discouraging other patriotic forces from allying themselves with it."

Husayn repeats his call to all the Egyptian opposition parties to close ranks and criticizes another call by Rif'at al-Sa'id, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG], to form an opposition front that excludes "the Islamic stream." He says that when al-Sa'id made this call at an opposition seminar he was opposed by Wafd and Nasirite Arab Democratic Party representatives. 'Adil Husayn warns the NPUG leader that by trying to divide the opposition he is playing into the government's hands.

Seizing on this point, Husayn urges the Wafd and the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party to protest the authorities' crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, warning them that if they do not do so their turn will come.

BEIJING CONFERENCE SEEN PROMOTING IMMORALITY

Page 3 in this issue is devoted to three articles on Beijing's UN World Conference on Women. The first and longest article, approximately 3,000 words, bears the headline: "In Beijing: The Islamic World and the Germ Bomb Come Face to Face" and the subhead: "The Satanic Delegations Have Been Trained to Influence the Muslims and Extract Agreements From Them." It is written by Yusuf Sa'd.

The article, as the main headline notes, compares the document under discussion by the Beijing conference with a bomb more destructive than the "Hiroshima bomb" and focuses mainly on the document's sexual aspect.

The writer says that delegations from the United States, Israel, and various European, Asian, and Latin American countries are freely offering data on sexual mores in their countries. The writer attacks the data he cites as evidence of lax morals. He refers to teenage pregnancies in the United States, the "Zionist society of prostitution, cohabitation in various European countries, and prostitution in Russia, Thailand, and Brazil."

He says that all the major countries "that have failed in preventing deviant behavior" are unhappy that "Islamic society remains secure with its family structure, piety, morals, and values."

The article is accompanied by a large photo cutout of a young man in leathers wearing rings on every finger. It is accompanied by the caption: "A monstrosity, neither man nor woman. The United Nations believes that such people are worthy of care."

The second article, by Bishop Musa, a Coptic Church official who works with young people, attacks the Beijing conference's sexual message under the headline: "We Urge Resistance to the Atheists and the Promoters of Sexual Deviation."

The article cites biblical references proscribing "adultery" and homosexuality. The writer says Christianity bans abortion except to save the mother's life, discourages divorce, and believes in sex education only in "a sacred spiritual and scientific" style.

The third item on page 3 is a report by Subhi Buhayri naming some of the U.S., Algerian, and Egyptian delegates to the Women's conference and disputing their credentials to promote women's issues. It also deplores a lack of proper coordination between the Arab League and Third World countries on how to handle the conference document. The writer says that "some Arab delegations have welcomed the document and said they have no reservations about any of its articles."

POW KILLINGS RECOUNTED, DISCUSSED BY SEMINAR

Page 2 is devoted to two reports dealing with the issue of the Egyptian POW's killed in past Arab-Israeli wars. The first, a 2,500-word story by Huda Makkawi, cites accounts by various residents of al-'Arish in Sinai telling how Israeli troops killed unarmed Egyptian soldiers and POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars.

The gist of the narrations is that the Israelis killed many unarmed Egyptian soldiers as they withdrew from the battlefront or went looking for water in the desert. The narrators say that some were killed after laying down their arms, removing their military uniforms, and hiding in residents' homes in al-'Arish.

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One story is about the destruction of a train carrying Kuwaiti troops who came to Sinai to help the Egyptians and were captured by the Israelis and killed.

The second report is about a seminar held by the Cairo branch of the Egyptian Doctors Association to discuss the POW killings. Among the speakers at the seminar were the following:

Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a well-known preacher and a professor at Qatar University. He said that Islam respects captured prisoners and releases them unharmed, sometimes allowing them to be ransomed. He urged the country to "benefit from the killing of the Egyptian POW's by enlightening the nation about the enemies' conspiracies and reviving the spirit of jihad against the enemies of Islam."

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, representing the al-Azhar Institute at the seminar, urged "the adoption of a hard line with the Jews and advised against being easygoing when they ask for help in searching for the remains of their dead in wars that are decades old." He also said that Islam urges "strictness with enemies as long as war continues or if they are arrogant and proud." But he noted that Islam urges peace if the enemies are also so inclined.

After various former military commanders discussed how POW's should be treated, Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid, the president of the Doctors Association, said that this dossier should remain open to expose "the Zionist war criminals and gangs" to the world.

The seminar recommended that a committee be formed to "defend the rights of the POW's heirs" through lawsuits and to advocate against normalizing ties with Israel.

A 400-word article by Mahmud Bakri on page 12 attacking the Israeli "butcher ambassador" and accusing him of killing 100 Egyptian POW's.

IRAQ CASE BEHIND COOL EGYPTIAN, JORDANIAN RELATIONS

Two articles on page 9, in the "Arab and Islamic Nation" section, deal with recent Jordanian developments following the defections of two of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's senior aides and sons-in-law. A 700-word article by Muna Yasin on page 9, "For the Sake of Amman's Economic Summit, They Sell Iraq and Undermine Arab Reconciliation," discusses the renewed cooling of relations between Egypt and Jordan following Jordan's "abandonment of Iraq."

The article says Egypt is seeking a general Arab reconciliation and believes, like several other Arab countries, that Iraq "has been punished enough." It also wants to make comprehensive regional peace a condition for regional economic cooperation that includes Israel. Jordan seeks regional economic cooperation now.

The writer says he believes that Jordan's "burning of bridges with the Iraqi regime and perhaps its willingness to help overthrow it" has the following motives: Jordan wants to avoid clashing with U.S. policy in the region, seeks Gulf financing for its economic projects, wants to ease Israeli fears about the erstwhile Jordanian- Iraqi alliance, and wants to reaffirm its role as a buffer state between Israel and Iraq.

Yasin also notes that while Egypt prefers to see the Iraqi regime overthrown by the Iraqis themselves, Jordan approves of foreign intervention to achieve this objective, "something the United States is currently considering, albeit with reservations."

A 650-word report on a related issue by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on the same page says the defection of Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law has not only produced sharp changes in Jordan's foreign policy, but has also created a crisis between the government and the opposition, particularly the Islamist opposition, which has 17 out of 80 parliamentary seats in the Jordanian Parliament. This opposition says that the United States is trying to use Jordan as a "Trojan horse" to overthrow Saddam Husayn. It also distrusts the government's assertion that Jordan will not be used as a base for the Iraqi opposition or a place to reveal Iraqi secrets.

The article, entitled "Crisis of Confidence Between the Government and the Opposition Because of Iraq," also says that the Jordanian Government is placing restrictions on the activities of the professional associations because they oppose normalization with Israel.

ALGERIAN ISLAMIST INTELLECTUAL INTERVIEWED

In the Dialogue section on page 11, the paper publishes a 2,500-word interview with an Algerian "Islamist intellectual" called Dr. Abouger Soultani. The interviewee declares his opposition to the current violence and urges dialogue to solve Algeria's crisis. He explains that the Islamic Salvation Front was seen by some people as hardline because some of its members, not all, adopted a sharp political tone. He adds that despite this, the 1991 elections should not have been abolished. Soultani says the chief qualities defining Algeria's character are Islam and the Arabic language, something that France failed to erase during its 130-year rule of the country.

He says Islam is compatible with good government and that democracy can be adapted to an Islamic milieu.

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Declaring that the Algerians will never abandon Islam, he says he opposes domestic strife between Islamist and non-Islamist streams. He remarks that the war should be "against poverty, backwardness, and subservience to others."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Peace Process, Italy Visit

LD0309163695 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1745 GMT 2 Sep 95

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by Carmen Lasorella in Rome on 2 September; broadcast in progress — recorded, 'Arafat speaks in Arabic with superimposed Italian translation; transcribed from the Italian]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Arafat] ... the elections should have taken place in 1994. They told us that the Palestinian nation did not have enough money to perform government duties. I went to Brussels and the European Union foreign ministers gave us the means to tackle the financial problems, and the problems were solved. Now Tel Aviv says there is a security problem after the latest attacks. However, the responsibility for this violence is not only on one side. There are two sides, the enemies are extremist Israelis and Palestinians who work together to boycott the peace process.

[Lasorella] Shim'on Peres said in Cernobbio that there have been secret negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians in Italy. Can you confirm this? What can you add to that?

['Arafat] Yes, we held many meetings in Italy before the Oslo negotiations and after. Italy can play a key role in the Middle East peace process and we hope it will.

[Lasorella] Is there a limit to the price you are ready to pay in return for peace?

['Arafat] No, there is no limit. Peace is more important than anything else. It will be neither Yasir 'Arafat's peace nor the Israelis' or the Palestinians' peace. The peace is necessary for the whole of the Middle East and for the whole world. Here in Italy, I have held talks with President Scalfaro and Prime Minister Dini. I expressed the desire that your Christian festival, the Holy Year in 2000, becomes an event for peace for everyone — for Muslims, for Christians, and for Jews. May this Holy Year which will be celebrated in Bethlehem and Jerusalem will start in Rome. I will ask this of the pope. Above all, I came to italy for this reason.

PA To Receive Jerusalem Arabs' Tax Files

TA0709143095 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bethlehem, QUDS PRESS — A Palestinian official has unveiled a decision issued by the Israeli authorities which calls for transferring the tax files of Jerusalem's Arab residents to the Palestinian income tax department.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Salfiti, deputy director general of the income tax department at the Palestinian Authority [PA] Ministry of Finance, said to QUDS PRESS: We were notified of this decision one-and-a-half months ago, but it has not been implemented yet. The concerned Israeli officials claim that they have not yet received orders from the higher echelons to implement the decision. [passage omitted]

'Abbas on Hebron, Jerusalem, Israeli Elections

TA0709200195 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 15

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Will agreement be reached on the second part of the transitional stage? There are those who say yes with certainty and there are others who rule out an agreement because of the pressure of time and the many clauses which have not yet been resolved.

[Abu-Mazin] I have observed the talks since they began. I see that there are issues which should not have been subject to negotiations because the text of the Oslo accord is clear over them. The most prominent one is the issue of Hebron. We agreed that there would be some temporary security arrangements regarding the settlers in Hebron. We consider this presence to be subject to negotiations with the aim of ending it. It is only a question of time. Now I see the reverse of this position. The Israelis are trying to maintain a major and almost permanent security presence while allowing the Palestinian Authority [PA] and its security organs a formal and symbolic presence. This logic and this approach are alien to the truth and to the reference point which governs relations between us, namely; the accords.

There is another issue on which negotiations are being held, that is elections. This issue was left vague in the Declaration of Principles. The fundamental sticking point now is over the number of the council members. There is no justification for the Israelis to propose fewer members. The same applies to voting by Jerusalem

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residents. This issue requires a creative formula in order to guarantee the right of Jerusalemites to full participation in political life, as they are an integral part of the Palestinan people.

On the whole, the current talks are entering a delicate stage. The important thing is to consolidate and implement what is agreed on and continue the talks over those issues that have not been agreed on yet, with the exception of Hebron of course, on which agreement should be reached because of the centrality of its situation in comparison to other issues. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Abu-Mazin, let us assume that we sign an agreement today or tomorrow, what will be the scenario on the ground?

[Abu-Mazin] Once the agreement is signed we will immediately address the issue of elections. At this point the elections law should have been approved and carefully planned preparations made to conduct the elections in a sound, free, and fair atmosphere. Prior to this, the PA should have already completed the assumption of powers in those spheres stipulated in the accord. Moreover, the question of voting by Jerusalem residents should have been resolved through a suitable formula.

After this the elections will be conducted. We hope that we will be able to elect 82 members among whom the members of the cabinet will be chosen. If the need arises, it is possible to add to the cabinet experts who were not elected to the council. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] The Israeli elections are approaching. You have always been accused of interfering directly in them. Do you have any specific plans in this respect?

[Abu-Mazin] I do not interfere in this issue nor am I allowed to do so. We respect the game, its rules, and results. However, I always advise the Palestinians in Israel to unify their ranks and voices and practice their electoral right in order to choose the largest possible number of their representatives in the Knesset because of the importance of this matter on more than one level.

Fatah Said Leaning Toward Deputy for 'Arafat

TA0709160495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 8, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS — A Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] official has said that the Israeli authorities have prevented some FRC members from returning to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Brigadier General 'Izz-al-Din al-Sharif, a member of the FRC, said that the Israeli authorities have refused to allow him; Major General Muhammad Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee; 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman; Brigadier General Mahmud al-Natur, official in charge of Force-17; Muhammad al-Madani; Hindi al-Shuwayki; Zuhayr al-Munasira; Ghazi al-Husayni; Mustafa 'Isa; and Mahmud al-'Alul to return to the self-rule areas. He added that the Israelis justified their refusal with security reasons.

It is believed that the Israeli Government is not permitting these people to return because of their military activities in the Western Sector Command of the Fatah military wing in the West Bank.

Al-Sharif told QUDS PRESS, however, that President Yasir 'Arafat informed him that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently promised to allow the return of four persons who had been prohibited from returning. He said that Rabin promised 'Arafat to permit the return of al-Sharif, al-Husayni, 'Isa, and al-'Alul.

In another development, Brig. Gen. al-Sharif, who is general coordinator of Fatah committees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said that the FRC will most likely be convened after the signing of the second stage agreement, but he ruled out the possibility that it would be convened in the self-rule areas.

The Palestinian official disclosed that the Fatah leadership is leaning toward choosing a deputy for President 'Arafat. He noted that the strongest candidates for this post are: Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir, official in charge of organization in Fatah; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and secretary of Fatah; and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, head of the PLO Arab and International Relations Department.

Fatah's 'Abbas Zaki Returns to 'Homeland'

JN0709163095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Sep 95

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki returned to the homeland today. His arrival to Palestine and his meeting with the Palestinian people was impressive. What did 'Abbas Zaki say to Voice of Palestine?

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Welcome home.

[Zaki] Thank you.

[Correspondent] What is your feeling, now that you are home after a long stay abroad?

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[Zaki] Thank you. Praise be to God, to the people, to the sacrifices of all our heroes and those of the intifadah, and to our strugglers who have achieved a miracle and created a balance which prompted everyone to recognize the Palestinian people's right.

My return home today is the beginning of the repatriation of all those who were denied their homeland. God willing, there will be both a will and readiness to establish a comprehensive and just peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. All parties, and not only one party, will benefit from such peace.

[Correspondent] How do you view the current political situation?

[Zaki] I view it as a conflict of wills. Anyone who claims rights must adhere to his position to regain his rights. Fate has wished that these rights be regained piecemeal. Thus, the political situation is complicated. However, the Palestinian people's will is great.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Welcome home again.

[Zaki] God bless you. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Goodbye.

[Zaki] Goodbye. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Self-Rule Negotiations Continue in Taba

Peres, Quray' Comment

NC0709184795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 7 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank resumed in Taba tonight. The Palestinian side was headed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli side by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Before the negotiations began Peres told correspondents that no progress has been made on Hebron and that there are big differences in views between the two sides that are difficult to overcome. He said there must be a common denominator between the Israeli and Palestinian views and that this has not yet been established. He noted that he does not know whether the Hebron issue can be settled today. He stressed that he received a telephone call today from Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on the progress of the negotiations.

Dr. Ahmad Quray', alias Abu 'Ala', minister of economy in the Palestinian Authority, stressed that the issue of Hebron is basic in the negotiations and that no agreement can be reached on expanding self-rule without a solution to this important problem. He said that what the Palestinians are demanding is objective and logical, that is, implementing the self-rule agreement in Hebron, like other West Bank towns. He expressed his hope that a solution will be found so that the Palestinian party can sign the agreement in Washington on 18 September.

'Arafat and Peres held a meeting in Taba yesterday in a bid to solve the problems hampering the signing of the agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule, particularly the issue of Hebron, which is a primary obstacle to an agreement between the two sides, along with the release of 6,000 Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails, the right of the population of Jerusalem to participate in the elections, the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the Palestinian towns and villages, the security of the settlements, and the transfer of the water and electricity authorities to the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Jerusalem TV Reports Progress on Hebron

TA0709192995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in Taba — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Taba talks have made progress on several issues. First of all, one issue which is not part of the negotiations, but which is extremely relevant to the negotiations, has made progress. I have been told by good, very good Palestinian sources that they believe that as soon as an agreement with Israel is signed at the end of this month, God willing, Yasir 'Arafat will reach an agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The main points of the deal with Hamas as reported to me are as follow: Hamas pledges to discontinue all terrorist activity from territories that are or will be under the Palestinian Authority [PA] control, including the pertinent parts of the West Bank. In return, the PA will release some 70 Hamas members held in its jails and stop the manhunt for wanted men. I am not certain at this point whether this applies to the Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash. In addition, the PA and 'Arafat pledge to appeal to the Israeli authorities to obtain the early release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and other Hamas prisoners.

Another issue which has made progress is Hebron. The Peres-'Arafat meeting, which is still in progress, began much later than scheduled as a result of 'Arafat's trip to Egypt. According to a deal that is on the meeting's agenda, Israel will make certain moves in

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civilian spheres to compensate the PA for the security powers it will not receive in Hebron. The two men are now discussing normalization steps designed to improve civilians' lives; the opening of roads vital for the Arab residents, which have been blocked for several years, such as the roads to Sir and al-Shuyukh; and reopening the wholesale market, but in a different capacity. In general, the progress achieved so far has not been sufficient to enable the signing of an agreement.

As for electricity, a genuine attempt to achieve progress was made an hour ago. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Gonen Segev is here next to me. Sir, you have met with 'Arafat on this issue. Were you able to resolve the high voltage problem?

[Segev] All talks on electricity issues have been cut short. We have to supply the Jewish settlements and army bases in Judaea and Samaria with electricity, and for that, we have to control the grid. The Palestinians seem to be unable to understand this, and that was why the talks were again discontinued.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 7 September adds: "Energy Minister Segev offered the Palestinians the setting up of a joint company responsible for high and low voltage, but the Palestinians rejected the proposal. They are demanding international arbitration on the responsibility for power production and distribution."]

'Arafat-Peres Meeting Still in Progress

JN0709202795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is still in progress at the Hilton Hotel in Egyptian city of Taba. The meeting began at approximately 1800 [1600 GMT] today.

Before the meeting, President 'Arafat expressed hope that common denominators will be reached between the two sides. For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres stressed the need for finding common denominators with regard to the outstanding issues. He pointed out that these common denominators have not thus far been reached.

Replying to a question posed by journalists prior to the meeting on whether it is possible to make a decision on the Hebron issue at this meeting, Peres said: We do not know whether we can do so or not.

Peres added that there is no progress on the Hebron issue. He said differences are still large, and it is difficult to end them.

Trade and Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' asserted that the Hebron issue is fundamental and pivotal. He added that there are many important issues and the Hebron issue is one of them.

Quray' said he hope an agreement will be reached this month. He asserted that the Palestinian side is not against any logical and reasonable solution which safeguards the nature, rationale, and spirit of the agreement. He said that the Palestinian position on Hebron has not changed, describing it as a logical, objective, and sound position.

Quray' said the Palestinian position on the Hebron issue is that Hebron is an indivisible part of the West Bank and should thus be included in redeployment as part of implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. What applies to other West Bank cities should also apply to Hebron, he added.

Quray', who is the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations, also pointed out that all committees will meet here in Taba today, and that preparations are under way to hold final discussions on the Hebron issue.

'Arafat Adviser on Hebron, Water

NC0809052195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 7 Sep (MENA)—Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli sides today discussed a number of important topics, including the issue of water. He stressed that the Palestinian side adhered to its right to a fair share of the water.

In statements this evening, Kanafani said that the Israeli side submitted some ideas concerning the quantities of water, but no final agreement has been reached. However, a joint committee has been tasked with preparing a study about this issue, the Palestinian official added.

Kanafani noted that the Israeli side presented a working paper dealing with Hebron. But as far as we are concerned, this paper does not represent a sound basis for laying the principles of the agreement, Kanafani added. He said that the Palestinian side stressed that Hebron should be treated like any other Palestinian town when the agreement for the expansion of the self-rule is applied.

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In his statements, the Palestinian official said that it has been decided to hold a joint Palestinian-Israeli meeting to prepare a paper concerning Hebron. However, the Israeli side presented a draft of this paper without briefing the Palestinian side on it, Kanafani said.

Talks End Without Agreement

TA0809062095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The negotiations in Taba headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have ended without an agreement. The delegations are to resume talks at the beginning of next week. Peres and 'Arafat are to meet again on Wednesday [13 September].

The Palestinians are standing firm on their demand that Hebron be handed over to them like the other six cities on the West Bank. Israel is insisting that it have overall security responsibility for the city.

The delegates to the Taba talks yesterday discussed a new proposal regarding Hebron prepared by General 'Uzi Dayan and General 'Abd-al-Razzaq Yahya. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the issues at stake are security, normalization, and the transfer of civilian authority. Peres was not prepared to give a date for the completion of the negotiations for the interim agreement.

On the water issue, a proposal was put forward by which the quantity of drinking water supplied to the West Bank could be doubled within five years. At present, 30 million cubic meters are consumed. Attempts would be made to find additional water from new sources.

There was no progress on the issue of electricity. The Palestinians called for international arbitration on the issue of electricity supply and distribution. Israel proposed that a joint committee be established or, alternatively, that the Palestinians could link up with the Jordanian electric grid.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 September publishes on pages A1 and A10 a report by Revital Levistein, which adds: "As part of the financial agreement, the sides settled their differences on six issues: banking, the budget, Treasury operations within the Civil Administration, value-added taxes, income taxes, and fees for the transfer of indirect taxes. 'We finalized all the issues required by the Treasury,' Peres said."]

VOP Reports No Agreement on Hebron

JN0809075295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Sep 95

Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the nine-hour closed and expanded meetings between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which continued from yesterday evening until early this morning, no agreement has been reached regarding the issue of Hebron.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and spokesman for President 'Arafat, said that Hebron remains an obstacle facing the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators and that no agreement on it has been reached. Kanafani stressed that the most important thing is both sides' determination to reach an agreement, adding that the Israeli side presented a working paper on Hebron. He noted that although the Israeli paper contains some Palestinian stands it is still an Israeli draft paper, adding that no agreement has been reached on this paper.

Kanafani added that the Palestinian side adheres to the working paper which was presented to the Israeli delegation regarding Hebron. He called for dealing with the city of Hebron like any other city, adding that the only difference is the settlers, thus, the Palestinian reservations on the Israeli paper which was presented during the talks.

Regarding the water issue, Kanafani said that the Palestinian side adheres to its right to its share of water. He said that some ideas and water quantities were presented, but no final agreement was reached. A joint committee was charged with preparing a study for discussion, he said.

Regarding the electricity issue, the Palestinian side called for handing over the entire electricity network just like the Gaza Strip. The president requested arbitration in this regard.

Trade and Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' described the meeting as constructive, noting that some progress has been achieved. Quray' said that some issues are still under discussion, such as the Hebron issue.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said: We have made a small step regarding Hebron but there is still a long way to go. He added that very slight progress has been achieved on the issue of Hebron, noting that the Palestinian side will present its reservations regarding the Israeli paper today. Peres announced that it was agreed to resume work next week, adding that both delegations will meet next Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. 'Arafat and Peres will hold another meeting in

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Taba next Wednesday. This means that despite the very slight progress, agreement has not been reached during this round of talks.

Peres on Agreement on Transfer of Powers

NC0809065995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that the Palestinians and Israelis agreed to transfer the powers for water, taxes, and customs to the Palestinian side.

Speaking at a news conference held early this morning following a 4-hour round of talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Taba, Peres said that Israel had decided to fully transfer the power for water in the West Bank to the Palestinian side. Israel will increase the amount of water given to the Palestinians by 100 percent within 5 years, he added. In addition, an agreement was reached to fully transfer tax and customs powers to the Palestinian side.

Regarding electricity, Peres added that President 'Arafat wants a mutually acceptable international arbitration to resolve the question. A joint committee has been set up to discuss all the proposals and agree on one of them.

Regarding Hebron, Peres pointed out that several proposals had been presented by the committee established from both sides to resolve this problem.

'Arafat on Obstacles in Negotiations

NC0809103695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that obstacles continue to exist between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He added that basic issues were not discussed during the round of negotiations, which ended in Taba early today.

In a statement prior to his departure from Taba to Gaza today, President 'Arafat maintained that it is not definite yet whether it would be possible to abide by the 18 September target date for signing the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, slated to take place in Washington.

Responding to a question on why the last round fail to work out an agreement, President 'Arafat said that this was due to the Israeli side's stand concerning the redeployment of Israeli forces, particularly in Hebron. He said that he was keen on briefing President Husni Mubarak during their meeting in Alexandria yesterday. 'Arafat said that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, yesterday telephoned Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres after the meeting. He added: We always seek the help of President Mubarak and Egypt to solve the problems that face the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

President 'Arafat expressed the hope that the next round of negotiations, scheduled for Wednesday, 13 September, will achieve progress regarding all contentious issues between the two sides.

PLO Rejects Outline of Rural Areas for IDF Redeployment

TA0809105095 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO has categorically rejected Israel's proposed outline of the "yellow" area (the rural or B area) in the Nabulus and Ramallah districts, but may accept it in the Janin and Judaea districts. PLO officials claim that the "yellow" area in the Nabulus and Ramallah districts is too small, but is quite reasonable in the Janin and Judaea districts.

Yesterday Israel presented to the Palestinians the map showing the division of the territories in anticipation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. Defense sources said the map meets all the security requirements raised by the military level in the internal deliberations conducted by the Israeli leadership on the eve of the talks with the Palestinians, such as maintaining blocs of settlements and remaining in control of the main roads and what the IDF's top brass called "vital arteries" (essential roads, water pipelines, and electrical and telephone lines).

The presence of numerous "vital arteries" in the Nabulus and Ramallah districts largely reduces the "yellow" areas. These include the trans-Samaria road (described as a traffic artery that is vital for security), vital military installations on Jabal 'Aybal, the western slopes of Samaria in the west (considered central Israel's safety belt), and the Samaria Desert and the Jordan Valley in the east (considered Israel's security border versus the eastern front).

In contrast, in the Janin District the rural area is rather big, and the absence of Jewish settlements and other Israeli facilities enabled a considerable expansion of the "yellow" space. The same applies to Judaea, where Jewish settlements and Arab locations are concentrated in blocs, except for the city of Hebron which is a problem in itself.

As for Qalqilyah and Tulkarm, Israeli sources say the PLO realizes that the chances that Israel will agree to

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expand the "yellow" area are slim seeing that these areas are very close to the Green Line.

According to these sources, the real argument between Israel and the PLO about the redeployment will begin now. Circles in Jerusalem say that the only way to make the PLO accept Israel's position will be by making promises concerning the permanent arrangement.

Histadrut Agrees To Repay Debt to Palestinian Union

TA0809071395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Histadrut labor federation will pay back the Palestinian trade union a debt of 4 million shekels by the end of the year. This was agreed to at a meeting between a Histadrut official, Knesset Member 'Amir Peretz, and Palestinian representatives. Half of this sum will be transferred by the end of this month. At the meeting, Peretz undertook to ask the police minister for details concerning Palestinian workers imprisoned in Israel. He also promised to hold a meeting to resolve the difficulties experienced by workers from the territories when entering Israel.

Israel's Liba'i, PA Prosecutor Discuss Crime Suspects

TA0609115195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Israeli] Justice Minister David Liba'i and Palestinian Authority [PA] Chief Prosecutor Furayh Abu-Middayn have just ended a meeting at the Coordination and Liaison Directorate at Erez. The justice minister presented formal requests for the arrest of seven Palestinians suspected of murdering Israelis and for their transfer to Israel, where they will be put on trial in accordance with the Gaza and Jericho agreement.

Furayh Abu-Middayn said the PA will take the requests under consideration. For his part, he sought to find out why the Israeli Shin Bet had abducted four Gaza Strip residents and tried three of them for murdering Israelis.

Minister Liba'i told our correspondent that the requests he submitted to the PA had been formulated in strict accordance with the procedures specified in the agreement and that the PA's reaction will reflect the degree to which it adheres to the agreement.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Minister Liba'i and Abu-Middayn will meet again in two weeks, at which time the justice minister will submit additional names of wanted men, including the killers of Uri Magidish.

Abu-Middayn Comments on Talks

NC0809073695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Interview with Furayh Abu Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] Brothers in the Arab world: As part efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli differences, Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn has met with his Israeli counterpart. On the line from Gaza we now have Mr. Abu-Middayn. Good morning Mr. minister and welcome.

[Abu-Middayn] Good morning.

[Al-Miliji] What was the nature of your meeting with your Israeli counterpart?

[Abu-Middayn] We continued our earlier discussion. The Israelis demand and insist that we hand over some Palestinians whom they want, allegedly for killing Israelis or others. The meeting came within this context. Of course this [demand] is a flagrant violation of the Oslo Agreement. We told them that they had abducted Palestinians from inside the Palestinian territories and therefore must return them before demanding the extradition of some suspects or wanted persons under the Cairo Agreement. That was one of the issues on our agenda. The central topic, however, was the methodic massacres committed by the Israeli forces in 1956, which we believe are war crimes. I refer here to the murder of the prisoners in Sinai and the slaughter of Palestinian civilians in Gaza during the 1956 war following President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's nationalization of the Suez Canal. This is a major dispute between the two of us. War crimes cannot pass without at least revealing the truth. Accordingly, the Palestinian stand was clear. We told them: You will provide the Egyptians with all the information regarding the question of the Egyptian POW's and, therefore, you must give the same kind of information to the Palestinians, who were in the same area during the same unjust war. They tried to evade the matter, claiming that these crimes are subject to the statute of limitations. For our part, we demanded recourse through the Geneva Convention and international law, under which war crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations. These were the main points discussed in the meeting. In addition, we referred to repeated violations by the Israeli intelligence service, which grants forged identity cards to some agents and spies. We tried during the meeting to explain to the Israelis that they are violating the Oslo and Cairo Agreements day and night.

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[Al-Miliji] How many Palestinians were killed in 1956 and the 1967 wars which you discussed with your Israeli counterpart?

[Abu-Middayn] In Khan Yunus alone, 450 were killed. In Rafah, approximately 300 were killed. So all in all, approximately 700 or 750 were killed on 3 November 1956 following the landing of troops in Port Suez and in the Suez Canal and Israel's incursion into Gaza, as part of the conspiratorial scheme against Egypt at that time. Between 3 and 5 November, approximately 750 Palestinians were killed in Gaza. They were liquidated. These were neither fighters nor soldiers. They [Israeli troops] broke into houses, called people out on loudspeakers, then shot them in public squares. These were approximately 750 people. In 1967, the number of murdered and assassinated civilians was less. We will discuss all the facts related to the 1967 war at a later stage. For now, we want to get the massacres of 1956 over with.

[Al-Miliji] What are you asking for?

[Abu-Middayn] First, we want to know the facts. When all the facts become known, we will present the figures and names. A committee was formed from the ministry of justice. The committee includes members of the bar association, nationalist figures, and official figures. The committee's task is to obtain all facts. Many of those who witnessed the crimes and massacres are still alive.

We know the names of the generals who took part in the fighting, especially [name indistinct]. This general is still alive. There are other generals who, as you know, have leaked information on how they assassinated Egyptian POW's in 1956. These generals are still alive. Since all these facts are known, the issue of our martyrs should be treated fairly. The names of the martyrs and the crimes committed against them should not be kept secret. We also must take into consideration the martyrs' families whether through compensation or the trial of the culprits on war crimes' charges. This will constitute the material for future discussion.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. Abu-Middayn, Egypt was the first to raise this issue. Is there any link between the their inquiry and yours?

[Abu-Middayn] Actually, there is no link. However, the battle was one and the same culprits committed crimes against the Egyptian army, POW's, Egypt, and the Gaza Strip. But there was no coordination. When the issue was raised by the Egyptian side it was spontaneously raised by the Palestinian side. The same thing could have taken place had the Palestinian side raised the issue first. This is because the Egyptians and Palestinians were on the same side during the 1956 Suez war.

What is more serious is the killing of civilians. But as far as the killing of POW's is concerned, this is in violation of the Geneva Convention and other agreements. Therefore, there is a Palestinian-Egyptian unified stand on the issue, but without any coordination. This is because the criminals are the same — the Israeli army and its generals who invaded Sinai and Gaza at that time.

[Al-Miliji] Let's talk about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations regarding the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo Accord, which has been extremely delayed. Reports said that differences continue to exist between the two sides despite President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. How true is that?

[Abu-Middayn] There is retreat in the Israeli stand. It is very regrettable that the negotiations are run by the military side, namely the Israeli army generals. Although I have extreme respect for Mr. Peres, yet he is not the decision-maker. It's Rabin and a group of generals who have the final say.

Hebron represents the central and most serious point. The issue is not one of security in Hebron. The true image of the Israeli intransigence in Hebron is now exposed. The Israeli side wants to make Hebron a religious topic with a security cover similar to their moves in Jerusalem. I am very much concerned over the issue of Hebron. It is no longer an issue of security. It's rather a political, religious, and racist issue.

[Al-Miliji] Why did the Israeli side raise the issue of Hebron so suddenly?

[Abu-Middayn] They backed down on their stand. They must adhere to the Oslo and Cairo Accords. This is a Palestinian town inhabited by 130,000 Palestinians. There are 400 Israeli settlers. One of them, as you may recall, killed 29 Palestinians in the well-known Goldstein massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. They should have removed the killers at that time. But this delay is due to Mr. Rabin's hesitation to make the decision. It is the same generals who raised this issue in this extremely complicated manner.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you Mr. Abu-Middayn.

[Abu-Middayn] You are welcome.

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Algeria

Car Bomb Injures 11 in Algiers Suburbs

LD0709134695 Rabat MAP in English 1318 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Sep 7 (MAP) — Eleven persons were injured Wednesday morning in a car-bombing which targeted a TV-radio building, in the suburbs of Algiers, a security source said.

The TV-building was seriously damaged by the bombing which took place in the 'Eucalyptus' District, one of the strongholds of the Islamist groups in the capital, where two journalists were killed lately.

The Islamist groups intensified these last weeks car-bombings and sabotage acts to sow chaos and disturb the under way governmental preparations for the presidential elections scheduled for next November 16.

TV Department Chief's Body Recovered

LD0709210895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have just learned that the body of our colleague Omar Kabriout, head of department at the technical center of the National TV Enterprise in Eucalyptus [Algiers], was uncovered from under the rubble following the criminal explosion that damaged the center yesterday. [passage omitted]

FIS' Abdelkader Omar 'in Hiding' After Harassment

MM0509105095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "A Salvation Front Leader Moves to Secret Action"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Algiers, AL-HAYAH — AL- HAYAH learned yesterday that Shaykh Abdelkader Omar, one of the freed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], is currently in hiding. FIS sources have confirmed the report. The sources noted that the shaykh resorted to secret action after being "harassed" by security organs following his violation of a ruling that he should not make any press statements. He violated the ban two weeks ago when he gave an interview to the weekly newspaper "LE NATION."

FIS sources have said that security elements searched his house following the press interview, and that the journalists who conducted the interview were summoned for investigation and maybe were punished.

Asked whether Abdelkader Omar's disappearance means that he has joined the FIS wing operating secretly, the sources said that he had to hide for fear of "the security organs' retaliation against him." [passage omitted]

FIS' Kebir on Political Situation, Elections

MM0809105595 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic 8 Sep 95 pp 43-44

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, by Lutfi Benramadan in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Benramadan] How do you evaluate the Algerian situation today politically as well as militarily and how do you view the balances of power; do you think they are moving in favor of the regime or in favor of the Islamic opposition?

[Kebir] The Algerian people are today passing through a difficult and critical period in their contemporary history and are suffering greatly on various levels. They are suffering from the very bad security conditions which are getting worse by the day particularly following the frustration of the political solution plan. The deterioration of the security conditions has left its imprint on the economic situation and led to unparalleled exorbitant increases in prices, driving tens of thousands of workers into unemployment and thus placing hundreds of thousands of people in abject poverty.

God Almighty has stated that "He has provided food to his slaves to save them from starvation and has granted them security from fear." A look at the situation in Algeria shows that these two factors that are essential for any progress and prosperity are completely lacking in Algeria. This is the logical result of the policy of throwing the country into the lap of the IMF without any conditions or restrictions.

Algerian citizens, be they in the cities or in the countryside and be they in the west, the east, or the center of the country, find themselves today lacking security about their lives and their property. They live under conditions of fear, caution, and watchfulness. This is a situation which applies to men and women and to the educated and to the ordinary simple men alike due to the despicable conditions in which the Algerian people now find themselves.

The Algerian people are now searching right and left for a way out of the situation they are in now, but find no political plan capable of rallying the people together and saving the country from the impasse it has fallen into, other than the Islamic plan which they have commended, and so become more confident that they were not wrong when they had chosen that plan on two successive occasions. This is because the enemies of this plan have provided nothing to the people,

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following the abolition of the Islamic plan, other than frustration and failure in all fields, in addition to fear and starvation which constitute a pickax that is demolishing full progress and civilization.

According to the reports arriving from within the country, all the Algerian people are today rallying around the parties they themselves have chosen, headed by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The people intensified their rallying when they saw that these parties have negated their own interests for the sake of the people's interests and agreed on the minimum possible level for the sake of the retrieval of the people's security, stability, sovereignty, and usurped rights.

In view of the policy of closing the door in the face of any acceptable political solution, the policy of confrontation becomes destined to continue for a longer time at the expense of the Algerian people and basic human rights.

As to the military situation, it is completely different from the reports disseminated by the regime to the effect that it is now in control of the situation. On the contrary, the military operations that are carried out throughout the various parts of the homeland clearly show that the military initiative is still in the hands of the strugglers who have shown themselves to be in support of the just political solution that could give each his rights and who have expressed their confidence in the strength of the FIS and support its plan.

[Benramadan] Could you clarify what exactly has happened in the negotiations which the regime declared to have failed? Was it true that Shaykh Abassi expressed his approval of the government's plan and then retracted it under pressure from the [FIS] shaykhs?

[Kebir] When we read the document drafted in conjunction with Shaykh Abassi Madani and the document written by the group of shaykhs including Shaykh Abassi, we saw no vital difference between the two documents. Indeed, we did not find any difference, except perhaps the occasional odd difference in the wording. From this, it became evident to us and to observers that the regime was not serious in seeking a political solution and that, indeed, it sought nothing from contacting the FIS leadership other than the realization of tactical or partisan objectives, including:

1) The attempt to divide the Islamic ranks between pro-negotiations and anti-negotiations.

2) The attempt to give international financial establishments and the international community at large the impression that it was seeking a political solution in an attempt to secure loans from these establishments.

3) The attempt to decimate the political opposition, particularly the National Covenant group. For this reason, Shaykh Abassi did not give his approval to any project and so he had nothing to retract . Indeed, the preliminary contacts made with him were meant to be a prelude for wider contacts with the shaykhs.

[Benramadan] Some sources have been leaking reports about the resumption of unilateral dialogue with the FIS. What is the truth about these reports and has there been any progress in the new negotiations?

[Kebir] The rumors of the resumption of contacts between the regime and the FIS are completely unfounded. Indeed, the FIS command is determined not to resume any contact with the regime from inside prison, because experience has shown that such contacts have constantly ended in failure.

The regime says whatever suits it about the resumption of negotiations through its own media and prevents the other side from replying and enlightening the people. For this reason, we firmly believe that no useful purpose could be served from holding these contacts, and that should contacts take place in the future, they should be held away from prison and with other, not those who are in prison, and should be attended by other parties so as to avoid all causes of failure.

[Benramadan] Some quarters have expressed their concern that the negotiations between the FIS and the regime might lead to the breakup of the National Covenant group. Do you think that there are genuine grounds for such concern?

[Kebir] The National Covenant group is a consolidated entity and its members have great confidence in each other and constantly hold consultations among themselves. Furthermore, they are determined to adhere to the course of consultations, a matter which breeds trust and solidarity.

[Benramadan] The dispute between the [Armed] Islamic Group and the FIS has come out into the open (the latest edition from Rabat) [as published]. How do you evaluate this group and what are the true facts in the field?

[Kebir] What we in the FIS reject is the excesses carried out in respect of the rights of the citizens whether under the pretext of national interest or under the pretext of our true religion. We also reject extremism and immoderation because our religion is a moderate one, as is evident from the statement of God Almighty: "Thus we have appointed you a middle nation." We also reject abnormal ideas and to have the Islamic plan based on odd or exceptional legal opinions, resulting in an exclusive or anomalous course.

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[Benramadan] There is a great deal of talk going on about a change that is supposedly taking place in the balance of power in favor of the Islamic [Salvation] Army at the expense of the [Armed Islamic] Group following the desertion of a large number of its members. How true are these reports? What is the actual situation on the field?

[Kebir] The reports coming from within the country state that the Islamic Salvation Army has been gaining strength and that people have been rallying around it and granting it their confidence.

[Benramadan] Has the FIS formulated a clear idea about who was behind the treacherous assassination attempt, which led to the death of Shaykh Sahraoui, May God have mercy upon his soul?

[Kebir] Shaykh Abdelbakir Sahraoui was the victim of a cowardly and treacherous operation perpetrated against him in the prison, where he was worshipping. He was targeted by the Islamic plan supporters.

[Benramadan] There seems to be a recession in the popular action in favor of the purely military action against the regime, despite the fact that all are convinced that a military settlement was impossible. How aware is the FIS leadership of this defect and are steps being taken to redress the balance?

[Kebir] Military action cannot be a substitute for popular action and the FIS is always present on the popular level, insofar as conditions permit. The FIS has tried, in conjunction with the National Covenant group, to embark on a political popular action. But the regime prevented us from doing so. The FIS is trying to exploit all available conditions to get closer to the people, mobilize them, and march together with them toward the realization of Algeria's interests.

[Benramadan] A retraction seems to be taking place in the moves of the Rome group, particularly in the western front. What is the reason for this and where have the efforts of the Covenant group reached?

[Kebir] The maneuvers among members of the Covenant group are still continuing and so are the efforts for a popular action internally and for contacts with the foreign countries.

Those who follow the statements of the leaders of the Covenant group readily notice that there is great harmony and resonance. True, the regime is trying internally to impede the activities of the group and it is true also that there is a limited response abroad. But what is important is that there is a growing interest among the Algerian people in the National Covenant and that the people see in this Covenant a sound way out of the crisis. What is important also is that the foreign powers have been listening to and following with interest the activities of the group, and that the National Covenant group's contacts and activities within the ranks of the Algerian people and the international community are continuing by all available means.

[Benramadan] What is the FIS position toward the presidential elections? Is it a position of absolute rejection or is there any possibility for an understanding? What would the FIS position be if the military where to approve of the nomination of Zeroual as a start for the solution?

[Kebir] We categorically reject the presidential elections because we see in them a new maneuver to keep the crisis alive. The FIS will take all necessary political measures to foil this maneuver.

[Benramadan] How do you evaluate the Western attitude toward the Algerian question?

[Kebir] Many Western countries try intentionally to maintain an ambiguous attitude toward what is happening in Algeria. Some of them have acceptable attitudes in that they denounce the violations of human rights, but they have not been effective. Some of them prefer just to sit on the fence and watch with indifference.

[Benramadan] What is your evaluation of the position of the Islamic movement in the world toward the struggle of the Algerian people and is there a message you wish to convey to your brothers through the pages of FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH?

[Kebir] The positions taken by the Islamic Movement throughout the world toward the Algerian people do not rise to the desired level. Indeed, some of these positions are negative. We find only a very rare few interested in the question. But it is the duty of Muslims, particularly the Ulema, the benevolent, and the Shaykhs, toward the Algerian people, to show more concern for their brothers in Algeria and to help the needy and the families that lost their breadwinners either through martyrdom or imprisonment. It is their duty also to help those who suffered losses and the needy who are so numerous. There is a need for help, both morally and materially. The Muslims should avoid trying to find justifications for letting down the Muslim Algerian people, by what the ordinary and the shaky information media write about errors committed by the Islamic movement in Algeria, the majority of which are imaginary mistakes. Even if mistakes were committed, this does not negate the duty of support which is ordained by religion.

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Observers To Monitor Presidential Elections

LD0709234795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League secretary general held a news conference at Houari Boumediene Airport's VIP lounge before leaving Algeria in which he dealt with the results of his visit to Algeria, and his talks with senior Algerian officials, in the forefront of whom was President Liamine Zeroual. During this news conference, the Arab League's secretary general stressed that the league has agreed to send observers for the forthcoming presidential elections in Algeria.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] We will participate in the group of observers with a number of observers from Arab countries. The executive, or practical, steps will be discussed over the following few days. As a matter of principle, we welcome this proposal, and are fully convinced of its usefulness, advantage, and importance, especially since the Algerian government's blessed step is the beginning of the road toward democracy, plurality, and constitutional legitimacy.

As I have mentioned, the details, participation and presence in the different committees will be discussed over the coming few days. In my view, these do not pose a problem, because I am confident that there is complete understanding between us and the brothers here in Algeria. The Arab League is prepared to cooperate with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was asked about the number of the Arab observers who will attend these elections. His reply was as follows:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] It will be a number that can carry out the task assigned to it. It will not be a number that could be counted on the fingers of one hand, but would be more than the fingers of the hand, or the two hands. Let me say that the number could reach 30 or 40 observers from the Arab League. I am saying it could reach this, subject to reservations due to the nature of the task and presence in the different places where observers are required to be. [end recording]

Journalists Say Fundamentalists Seek To Gag Press

LD0409212595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Association of Algerian Journalists has stated that the fundamentalists intend to gag the press.

Federico Mayor, director general of UNESCO, said in a communique released from Beijing that journalists in Algeria must be defended until the country finds the way back to tolerance and dialogue.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newletter

MS0709140895 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 5 Sep 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Do It Yourself Junta politics!

Praise be to Allah,

The Junta is doing all it can to present what it calls "presidential elections" as credible as possible. Looking closely at what the Junta is cooking, one can only "smell" treachery and double-crossing as the Junta wants to be a player and a referee at the same time in the game it has invented under the name of "presidential elections"

In the rules laid down by the Junta for this game, many are obviously partisan to favour a complete control of the game from the beginning to the end. Take for example the commission recently set up by the Junta under the misleading name of "independent commission for the scrutiny of elections". First this commission does not have full authority on the "election" arbitration since it was created as an additive to existing "constitutional structures" such as the "constitutional council" and other existing commissions of elections which are under the authority of the Junta interior minister. Therefor this new commission will not have in fact enough power to counter or make public serious electoral fraud. The problem is not only the fact that this commission is deluded in other organisations under direct control of the Junta but also its composition. The Junta ruled that the composition of that commission is cleverly set up as to allow the Junta the control of more than 80 percent of it! It is not the first time that the regime tries to "set up" an electoral process to its benefit but unfortunately for it, its calculations have always been wrong and the "engine" has always blown in the face of its "tuner". The purpose here is not to review the Junta arithmetics but to alert those who are willing to help the Junta in this adventure at the expense of the Algerian people, that the whole thing is a show!

Another distinctive sign of the Junta treachery is its attempt to muzzle the REAL [as published] opposition voice. Just this week the notorious secret police "La S.M" [as published] came armed to assassinate Dr

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Abdelqader Omar, one of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader. Dr Abdelqader Omar was released from Blida military jail last September after having spent a sentence of four years in jail. The cause of this assassination attempt was that last week he gave an interview to the newspaper "LA NATION" in which he criticised the regime. Now, Dr Abdelqader Omar lives in clandestinity. The question is: "is it possible under these conditions of oppression, state of emergency, curfew, etc... to have free elections?"

The general secretary of the Arab league is due in Algeria this week to discus with the Junta about these "elections", the REAL opposition have asked to see him and make its voice heard! Is the Junta going to stay in the way and prevent the opposition to talk and alert the Arab league representant about an eventual participation of the organisation in the Junta show? That will be a supplementary test of the Junta dishonesty!

The Algerian people, the military Junta and France: what is it really?

Many people are still asking how was it possible for a handful of Junta army generals to stop the Algerian people free choice of December 1991 knowing from history the capacity of the Algerians to resist domination.

It is not a secret any more that the trip of General Larbi Belkheir to the Elysee to "brief" the French President Mitterand a few days before the coup, was a historical evens as far as the tragedy of the Algerian people is concerned.

It is not a secret any more that the timing of the military coup coincided with the Mitterand attendance of the European Community meeting in Brussels from where he was the first international personality to make a public declaration on the subject and which content was meant to appease the international community on one hand and to encourage the pushiest on the other. And as a journalist at that time put it: "the French foreign minister — Roland Dumas at that time — hastened almost indecently to Algiers to offer reassurance"

From that moment on, France policy on Algeria was the "adopted" ECC [as published] policy. This in part, explains why the "difference" in views on Algeria between France and the U.S. persisted for some time.

France diplomacy has battled hard to bring EEC loans to Algeria when many of the European capitals saw investments in the newly democratic ex-communist countries, a first priority! It is unanimously accepted that all financial aid the Junta has received so far was a direct consequence of French lobbying!

As for the Military help provided by France to the Junta troops in their war against those who do not recognise the authority of a dictatorship who came to power by force, here is the bulk of an article published in the British newspaper "THE INDEPENDENT" on the 27/12/94 under the pen of Robert Fisk: Fance has been giving covert military support to the Algerian regime for months. Helicopters, night-sight technology for aerial surveillance of guerrilla hide- outs and other equipment has been sent to the Algerian army,some aboard French military flights which reportedly make regular flights in the early hours into Algiers airport where Muslim gunmen took over the Air France flight three days ago.

According to well-placed Algerian sources, the son of a French government minister is involved. He is said to run a private security company outside Paris which has legally sold millions of francs of equipment to the Algerian security police. "Everyone knows about this trade — but no one will talk about it," the source said.

French military intelligence officers carry on a fruitful relationship with their Algerian radio traffic round the clock, much of it from a ship bristling with communications antennae off the coasts of France's former African colony.

Code-numbered A646 Berry,the white-painted, former cargo vessel is crewed by members of the Direction General de la Security Exterieure, who listen day and night to the reports of Algerian commanders in the Lakhdaria mountains and the "Bled", the Algerian outback where the French military once fought the men they are now trying to help.(??!!) [as published]

The work of the "Berry" is supplemented by radio signals picked up aboard French air force planes flying along the Algerian coast, and by intelligence officers inside the heavily guarded French embassy in Algiers, who monitor Algerian police airwaves during "anti-terrorist" attacks that have sometimes left dozens of dead.

France has acknowledged selling nine Ecureuil helicopters to the Algerian government but has claimed that the machines were sent to Algeria for "civil" purposes-thereby avoiding statutory investigation by the French inter-ministerial commission for the inspection of military exports. But military sources say helicopters have only to be equipped with rockets and night-sight equipment, also provided by France, to become front-line equipment in the anti-guerrilla struggle. For more than a year, Muslim opponents of the regime have accused France of aiding the Algerian military government which, almost three years ago , cancelled a second round of elections the Islamic Salvation Front was certain to win.

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Egypt

'Arafat Arrives, Meets With Mubarak

NC0709142195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 7 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Taba from Alexandria this afternoon. In Alexandria he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the obstacles still facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on expanding self-rule.

'Arafat is scheduled to resume his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba tonight on pending issues between the two parties.

In a statement to correspondents today, 'Arafat said: "There is still a great deal to do regarding the negotiations with the Israeli party."

The first round of talks in Taba between the two sides yesterday ended without progress, certainly not on Hebron, which is the main obstacle to these negotiations. The Palestinian party insists that the agreement on expanding self-rule must include Hebron, like other West Bank towns. The Palestinian side rejects the Israeli claims for special security arrangements because of the presence of Israeli settlers in Hebron.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has denied reports that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be transferred from Taba to Alexandria. He stressed that the talks will continue in Taba. Palestinian sources said pessimism prevails in this round of talks because of the Israeli party's insistence on its stance on Hebron. They say that this stance makes signing the agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in Washington on 18 September difficult.

Commentary Addresses Sudanese 'Dangers' to Region

NC0709154595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Terrorist Regime in Khartoum and the Dangers it Poses to Sudan's Neighbors and the Whole Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's adoption of and support for terrorist activities and terrorists in Sudan is no longer a matter of doubts and accusations; the facts that confirm its complicity are clear. We cannot be lenient with the policy pursued by the ruling regime in Sudan. This policy must be confronted with the utmost firmness and decisiveness in view of the unlimited danger it poses to the security and stability of neighboring countries. Indeed, the danger is not limited to Sudan's neighboring countries, but extends to all the countries terrorists can reach, both in the region and beyond. Terrorism is an illegal subversive activity that runs counter to all cultural values, norms, and principles observed in international relations.

These are the general dimensions of the Sudanese regime's sponsorship and support of terrorist activities and sheltering of terrorists on Sudanese territory. There are far more serious dimensions to this policy for Egypt and Egyptian society in particular and African and Islamic societies in general. Regarding Egypt, there are two aspects:

1. The Sudanese ruling regime masterminded and implemented the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The issue is no longer mere accusations and doubts; the facts are clear and proven and officially declared by a country that is a member of the international community, the United Nations, and the OAU—Ethiopia. The crime was staged on Ethiopian territory.

The Ethiopian Government leveled accusations at the Sudanese regime, not at random or as a display of courtesy toward Egypt, but after lengthy investigation and the appearance of irrefutable evidence. The Ethiopian Government leveled the accusations publicly in an official statement, shouldering its responsibility toward Egypt, the leader of which was the target of the attempt, toward the OAU, one of the countries of which was the scene of the sinful attempt ahead of the OAU's annual meeting in Addis Ababa, and toward the entire international community, which condemns, denounces, and resists terrorism.

2. Apart from the attempt on the Egyptian leader in Addis Ababa, the Egyptian judicial and security authorities have proven that people tried to infiltrate from Sudan to commit terrorist crimes in Egypt, to strike at stability and security in Egyptian society, and to terrorize the Egyptian public.

We must emphasize that Islamic societies have a right and are even dutybound to take precautions against any act of terror by the Sudanese regime, which dons a false garb of religion. And the African countries, particularly those neighboring Sudan, such as Eritrea and others, where Sudanese terrorist acts occurred, must confront this danger that threatens them.

The international community has a responsibility to besiege this terrorist den in Khartoum. The Sudanese regime is giving evidence daily that it is unqualified to belong to the international community.

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The main issue between Egypt and the Sudanese regime is that Egypt declared strongly and unequivocally that it rejects terrorism and terrorists sponsored by this primitive and barbaric regime. Egypt specifically demands that the defendants be handed over and that the terrorists in Sudan be liquidated, based on Egypt's legitimate right to defend Egyptian society's security against sabotage, terrorism, and aggression targeting its people. Aggression against life is the worst kind of aggression.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Indonesia

NC0709165995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Indonesia today signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in scientific and technological spheres. Signing for Egypt was Dr. Venice Kamil Judah, minister of state for scientific research, and for Indonesia, Dr. Habibie Bacharuddin, minister of state for research and technology. The Indonesian minister invited Judah to visit Indonesia to see Indonesia's scientific and technological progress.

Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, met the Indonesian minister and his delegation. They exchanged views on achieving joint cooperation in strategic industries and scientific research. Afterward Dr. Al-Ghamrawi said they reviewed Egypt and Indonesia's capabilities in defense equipment to enhance bilateral cooperation. He said agreement was reached to exchange expertise during mutual visits by experts in the manufacture of defense equipment. He noted that the two sides also agreed that a committee of specialists in industry and scientific research in Indonesia will visit Egypt to define the industrial spheres in ea country to enhance integration and cooperation and to achieve mutual benefits from the industrial resources in each country.

Dr. al-Ghamrawi noted that Dr. Habibie is the minister in charge of modern strategic industries in Indonesia, stating the possibility of benefiting from Indonesian expertise in the manufacture of ships, aircraft, trains, chemical industries, machines, and vehicles. He noted that cooperation with Indonesia will be strengthened, as Indonesia has achieved tangible success in industry through huge budgets allocated to scientific and technological research. He said Indonesia had achieved success in state-owned strategic industries run with a private sector mentality. He noted that Egyptian companies are heading toward operations in line with the "offset" system, which gives them the right to manufacture 35 percent of the value of heavy imports from major companies. The Indonesian minister invited Dr. Al-Ghamrawi to visit Indonesia to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Interviewed

MM0709134895 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Sep 95 pp22-25

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, first deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Ayman al-Sayyad in al-Tawfiqiyah Market in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sayyad] Although you have denied in an official statement the removal of Hamid Abu-al-Nasr from the post of general guide, the facts affirm that you are now the actual and effective guide of the [Muslim] Brotherhood after the withdrawal of Abu-al-Nasr to his city of Manfalut due to old age and illness. Do not you agree with me that this is really the fact?

[Mashhur] His eminence Shaykh Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr has not withdrawn to Manfalut. He is actually residing in Cairo. He only left for Manfalut a short while ago, about 10 days ago, to deal with some of his private agricultural interests. God willing, he will return shortly to Cairo. He still exercises his duties as general guide, and in this capacity he has the last word. However, this does not mean that he does not have assistants. In fact, we do not have a unilateral authority, as matters among us are always dealt with in a consultative manner.

[Al-Sayyad] But the Brotherhood cannot really be run from a place 500 km from Cairo. Is it not so?

[Mashhur] As I have already said, he does not reside at Manfalut.

[Al-Sayyad] We are not used to your denying such reports. Why were you so anxious this time to issue a statement here and another statement from Manfalut?

[Mashhur] The fabricated report of the removal of his eminence the general guide came this time as part of a wide-scale campaign aimed at distorting the Brotherhood's image. The campaign claimed that there were conflicts and rifts within the Brotherhood and was coupled with the arrest of hundreds of Brotherhood members who were thrown into prisons and detention camps for periods which exceeded six months in some cases. Hence it was necessary to refute these fabrications.

[Al-Sayyad] It is known that your organization's bylaws permit the changing of the general guide in the event of his falling ill. Is it not so?

[Mashhur] His eminence Abu-al-Nasr is still shouldering the duties of his post.

[Al-Sayyad] Is Abu-al-Nasr's delegation of his duties to you during this period due to his appreciation of the role

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you played in his election as general guide following the death of Al-Tilmisani?

[Mashhur] His eminence Shaykh Muhammed Hamid Abu-al-Nasr assumed the post of general guide following the death of Shaykh 'Umar al-Tilmisani because he was the eldest member of the Guidance Bureau, in accordance with the Brotherhood's basic laws.

[Al-Sayyad] At the time, there were [other candidates such as] Salih Abu-Raqiq and Dr. Husayn Kamal al-Din. But you stood with those who favored the election of Abu-al-Nasr for reasons of their own. Is it not so?

[Mashhur] As I have already said, Abu-al-Nasr assumed his responsibilities in accordance with the Brotherhood's basic laws and traditions.

[Al-Sayyad] Where are we sitting now? Is not this the official headquarters of the Brotherhood?

[Mashhur] I am here now and I am sitting where I am accustomed to sit and where all the Brotherhood members are accustomed to sit and where the former General Guide 'Umar al-Tilmisani used to sit, and the government is aware of this fact. The place I am in now is the same place where we received former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi when he came to Egypt on an official visit, and where he came to us in an official procession. It is also the place where we received time and again Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who used to visit us during every official visit he paid to Egypt and used to be escorted by Egyptian security guards. Many other official statesmen and official guests of Egypt have also visited us here. Nothing about us has changed. This has been our place for over 15 years. We have worked along the same course and our thoughts are the same ones that are officially known to the state.

[Al-Sayyad] We wish to repeat our question: Is this the official headquarters of the Brotherhood?

[Mashhur] The same answer I gave you earlier stands.

[Al-Sayyad] Anyway, I believe that you are denying the existence of an organizational body for the Brotherhood. I believe also that you are the deputy general guide, although you attempt to deny all that during the interviews held with you. What do you say?

[Mashhur] We have previously published legal studies prepared by professors of law faculties and senior men of law which affirmed the lack of truth in the allegations that the Brotherhood has been dissolved or has been proscribed or that it has become illegal. We have repeatedly asked to meet with our natural judge, through whom we can prove the constitutional character of our existence and our call, and the legitimacy of our methods, and obtain verdicts proving the unconstitutionality of many of the legal provisions which the authorities claim are in conflict with our existence or with our call. [sentence as published]

[Al-Sayyad] Will you be the next general guide?

[Mashhur] I repeat that matters are dealt with in a consultative manner.

[Al-Sayyad] Are you not the eldest member of the Guidance Council?

[Mashhur] [does not answer]

[Al-Sayyad] Why do you not permit the youth to play a bigger role and be better represented on the Guidance Bureau? Do you not think such leaders as Sayf al-Islam or 'Isam al-'Aryan are worthy of such a thing?

[Mashhur] The youth are the carriers of the call and the leaders of the future. If you were to look at the leaderships of the vocational trade unions and the like, and if you were to look at those in prison at present, you would find that the youth do really shoulder the most important responsibilities.

[Al-Sayyad] Why then they are not represented in the leading positions?

[Mashhur] To each his role.

[Al-Sayyad] You are considered traditionally to be one of the "Brotherhood's hawks" and not one of its "doves." To what extent will this affect the Brotherhood's course now that you are the first effective person in it?

[Mashhur] None of us has the right to unilaterally assume authority. Matters among us are always tackled in a consultative manner.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you think that the state's fear of your influence on the Brotherhood's course was the reason behind the current clash, which is unprecedented in over 20 years?

[Mashhur] As I have previously said, matters are tackled among us in a consultative manner. Furthermore, the state's policy is not directed against one man.

[Al-Sayyad] Since the mid-seventies, you [the Brotherhood] have been operating publicly and you have been issuing statements that were published in the same official newspaper, and indeed, quite often you had meetings with responsible officials at the highest level. What has happened then that you are now charged with the old accusation of "belonging to an unlawful society?

[Mashhur] As I have already said, nothing has changed on our part. In fact this question should be put to the government so that it may answer it. Since it waged its recent campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood,

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large sections of the intelligentsia and the ordinary people alike have been expressing their astonishment and concern at this state of affairs as they see no justification for this campaign.

[Al-Sayyad] But what is your own analysis? Do you think that there are some who are trying to draw you into a clash which you think you would not be able to pay the price for?

[Mashhur] We will not be drawn into a clash, even if what you said was true. We will not be drawn into a clash, because we reject violence as a method.

[Al-Sayyad] But, anyway, they say that you are the one responsible for the removal of a number of the moderate leadership members in the mid-seventies such as Farid 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Salih Abu-Raqiq, and 'Ashmawi, a fact which shows that you were preparing the ground for the hard-liners.

[Mashhur] There is no foundation of truth for such talk. The brothers you have mentioned are honorable brothers whom we cherish.

[Al-Sayyad] Do not you agree with me that the Brotherhood would be more decisive under certain leaders?

[Mashhur] I have already told you that matters among us are dealt with in a consultative manner, and that no one has the right to unilaterally assume authority.

[Al-Sayyad] Do not the principles of the Brotherhood urge you to take up more radical positions in the face of the Government's escalation?

[Mashhur] We are determined to adhere to reason and to good advice, and to keep away from all forms of violence and all matters that might arouse suspicion.

[Al-Sayyad] Do they not ask you to return to underground activity?

[Mashhur] We operate in broad daylight.

[Al-Sayyad] But some of your recent statements have intimated that you "might not be able to restrain the youth"?

[Mashhur] We have not issued any ultimatums, but have expressed our fears at the intensity of the pressures. But the paper which published the report intentionally sought to cause harm and provoke feelings. We maintain our determination and our affirmation of our adherence to the legitimate legal and constitutional methods.

[Al-Sayyad] It is evident that you are extremely anxious not to provoke anyone. On what do you rely then?

[Mashhur] On winning public opinion over to the Islamic course for which we call.

[Al-Sayyad] Are you not disturbed by the campaign of distortion being waged by some societies against the Brotherhood's pacification policies, which have become some sort of established principles for these societies (the book of the bitter harvest)?

[Mashhur] We only seek in all our actions to please God first and last and not to please this side or that. There is a big difference between pacification and having a truce. Pacification does not mean dereliction of duty just as rashness does not mean courage and bravery.

[Al-Sayyad] What news of the clandestine wing?

[Mashhur] We do not have anything called the clandestine wing. If you mean the special organization [al-Tanzim al-Khas] that existed in the forties and fifties, it was an organization that was created for the achievement of an honorable national objective — namely, resistance to British colonialism and Zionism which occupied Palestine. That era has ended together with all its justifications since the fifties, and the special organization no longer exists.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you believe that you constitute a force with a true weight on the Egyptian political map, or is your weight confined to the pages of the press only?

[Mashhur] The results of the People's Assembly elections of 1987 and those of the various vocational trade unions, clubs of the teaching staff in the various universities, the student unions, and other bodies provide the clear answer to your question. Yet we neither seek nor do we contemplate having a majority in the elections, as such a thing is completely unlikely.

[Al-Sayyad] How many are you in Egypt compared to the National Party?

[Mashhur] Abstract figures do not signify anything, for what would determine matters would be the holding of sound, free, and honest elections which would truly reflect the will of the people.

[Al-Sayyad] So you hope to assume power in Egypt? Which of the political forces would you then consider to be your principal adversaries: the Nasirites, the Communists, or the groups of religious armed violence such as the "Islamic Grouping" or the "Jihad" for example?

[Mashhur] We do not seek power for our own sake. We only hope that the country would be governed by Islamic law. We will not classify people as adversaries and nonadversaries. We hope all people will cooperate together today, not only tomorrow, for the good of the homeland and the citizens.

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[Al-Sayyad] How do you classify your present relations with the government? Do you consider them positive relations?

[Mashhur] Our relationship with Government can be readily seen from the oppressive arrests and the campaign of distortion and fabrications. Yet we bear no grudge against anyone. I feel very sorry because of their imprisonment of innocent people whose only crime is that they believe in a faith and a creed. They have harmed nobody.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you not feel somewhat grateful that they have not arrested you despite their arresting the others?

[Mashhur] The arrest of any of the brothers has a greater effect on me than my own arrest.

[Al-Sayyad] Evidently, you seem confident that they will not arrest you too?

[Mashhur] Only God knows what lies deep in the heart.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you expect any further escalation by the government?

[Mashhur] We pray to God to endow all Muslims with good health. But the reading of events indicates that the government is persisting with its escalation at least until the completion of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

[Al-Sayyad] What will your answer be in such a case?

[Mashhur] Graceful patience. God suffices for us and he is the best support.

[Al-Sayyad] As the one in charge of the universal organization [the branch concerned with the outside world], do you feel that this organization is as strong as some consider it to be?

[Mashhur] As you know, the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood has spread in scores of Arab and Muslim countries. In some of these countries, there are official entities that carry the name of the Muslim Brotherhood. They meet whenever they have the opportunity in conferences and gatherings. It is natural for exchanges of views and ideas about current Muslim issues to take place during such conferences and gatherings.

[Al-Sayyad] My question concerns the universal organization.

[Mashhur] There is no such thing as the universal organization. The brothers in whatever country they live abide by the conditions prevalent in their countries and draw their own plans accordingly.

[AL-MAJALLAH note] (In an interview published a few days ago (General Guide) Hamid Abu-al-Nasr declared: "We have people abroad, in Germany, London, and Europe. Every Brotherhood member who left Cairo formed a branch which has contacts with the mother movement in the inside (Egypt). There is nothing wrong with that, and this is what is called the universal organization of the Brotherhood." He added that "such activity is just like any other activity in the inside and falls under the responsibility of the Shura Council.")

[Al-Sayyad] What is your position with regard to al-Turabi?

[Mashhur] He operates in Sudan and we have no agreements or any coordination with him. In principle, and without trying to level charges against anyone, we are against violence and condemn any plotting or terrorism.

[Al-Sayyad] But you sat beside him on the main platform of the conference held in Khartoum few months ago?

[Mashhur] I was officially invited to attend the conference. At the final session, a number of symbols of Islamic action in various continents sat on the platform and I was one of them. With the completion of the conference, which was attended by hundreds of workers in the Islamic fields, all the conference activities came to an end.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you not feel any rivalry from his organization?

[Mashhur] There are scores of Islamic organizations at world level. We pray to God to help all sincere persons to achieve their ends.

[Al-Sayyad] What is the extent of your relationship with Hamas?

[Mashhur] The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" was established in occupied Palestine with a view to reviving the spirit of Jihad against the invaders and binding together the Palestinian people and the Palestine cause and the Islamic faith, the land, and the homeland.

[Al-Sayyad] But what are the limits of your relationship with them?

[Mashhur] They are like any other Brotherhood grouping in any country. They manage their own affairs.

[Al-Sayyad] Has Yasir 'Arafat ever asked you to exert any pressure on them?

[Mashhur] Nothing of the sort has happened.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you support the [Islamic] Salvation Front in Algeria?

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[Mashhur] We support whatever the Algerian people choose as long as it is a free and sincere choice.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you believe that you will succeed in the forthcoming elections at a time when the Brotherhood members in Jordan have failed?

[Mashhur] The Brotherhood members in Jordan have not failed. In the recent parliamentary elections, they gained a higher percentage of the votes than at any time past. But the changes that were introduced in the electoral law prevented the translation of these votes into seats in the chamber of deputies.

We demand a system based on the premise that the people are the source of all authority, and that no individual, organization, or party has the right to assume power except through the free and true will of the people. The people's will must always be accepted. We have repeatedly declared our acceptance of political plurality and the principle of assuming authority through true popular elections. It suffices that the homeland as a whole would succeed through the adoption of this sound course, which would safeguard for the nation as a whole its entity, its safety, its stability, and its security.

Journalists' Statement Urges True Democracy

NC0709163395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—A statement issued by the Third Journalists Congress after its meetings today stresses the importance of true democracy as the key solution to all crises.

The statement, read by Salah-al-Din Hafiz, the Congress rapporteur, calls for pushing the democratic evolution process toward completion through free political pluralism reflecting the various forces in society and through fair elections that guarantee a majority for those who deserve it, pave the way toward power rotation and the exchange of posts in accordance with sound democratic principles, and close the road to the forces of extremism and frustration and to the organizations of terrorism and armed violence, which threaten Egypt and distort its image as a tolerant society.

The statement explains that freedom of opinion, expression, and the press must not be a privilege for journalists only, but one of the public liberties for all citizens. It stresses that free access to and the free flow of information should not be confined to journalists, but should be a basic right for all citizens.

The statement notes the importance of political pluralism accompanied by a press and media pluralism that maintains the right to publish newspapers; guarantees press freedom; helps the free flow of information; protects freedom of opinion, expression, and belief for all; establishes a free dialogue in a free society; and formulates new and good relations among the press, the State, and the institutions of society.

The statement sees a need for general legislative reform to cleanse the legal legacy of the past century of the texts that restrict freedoms and contradict democracy and human rights in an age that raises the slogans of democracy and respect for human rights. Legislative reform needs also to abolish the various extraordinary laws and to guarantee the right of every citizen to appear before a civilian judge.

The statement says the new legislation should also guarantee the right of writers, journalists, and those who shape opinion to freely express their views and get their message through, away from the oppressive restrictions that are backed by some undemocratic laws. The new legislation should also protect everyone's private life without aggression from any side and should establish harmony between political and media calls for democracy and the existing reality with all its burdens and hardship.

The statement points out that history made Egypt a link, a contact point, for various continents, civilizations, and cultures. By virtue of its location, role, and history, the statement says, Egypt is an asset and a beacon. [passage omitted]

Libya

'Around 30' Dead as Police Clash With 'Militants'

NC0709141895 Paris AFP in English
1323 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salum, Egypt, Sept 7 (AFP)—Clashes between Libyan police and Moslem militants in Banghazi have left around 30 dead, travellers crossing at this border point told AFP on Thursday [7 September].

"Twenty Islamists and 10 policemen were killed in clashes which broke out after a dispute between two taxi drivers" in the eastern Libyan city on Wednesday, one witness said.

The fight erupted between an Islamist cab driver and a policeman moonlighting as taxi driver. Libyan police have not been paid for five months and many have taken up jobs as drivers on the side, another witness said.

Security forces intervened in the dispute and sparked armed battles in the streets of Banghazi, he said.

Police stepped up sweeps Thursday in search of weapons caches in the city, witnesses said.

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Police also set up checkpoints along the coastal highway between Tobruq, east of Banghazi, and Musa'id, a Libyan post on the border with Egypt.

Trucks crossing the borders from both Tunisia and Egypt have been subject to rigorous searches for hidden weapons, the witnesses said.

Interior Minister Denies Clashes

MM0809093195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Responding to Reports of 30 Killings, Libyan Interior Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Libya Free From Fundamentalists, No Clashes in Banghazi"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, London — A week after Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi described fundamentalist extremists as "atheists" in his speech on the 26th anniversary of his assumption of power, the eastern region of Libya is once again in the forefront of events with the emergence of reports yesterday of new clashes between gunmen belonging to Islamic groups and Libyan security organs in Banghazi. However, Libyan Interior Minister Muhammad Hijazi, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone yesterday, denied the existence of any clashes, stressing that Libya "is free from fundamentalism."

The Libyan interior minister told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The current escalation as regards fighting fundamentalism is the issue of the hour in the world as a whole, but it is a different matter in the Jamahiriyah, which deports those who infiltrate the borders from African and Arab states in order to safeguard the security and safety of the region and to protect it against any subversion or arrangement to shelter suspect organizations.

Hijazi pointed out that "every Arab is entitled to enter Libya without a prior entry visa, provided that those entering Libyan territory have on them the official papers." He said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi stressed in his speech on the occasion of the 1 September revolution anniversary the necessity to fight the infiltrators and to send them back to their country in order to avoid suspicion.

On Libyan fundamentalists' link with the Sudanese National Islamic Front, led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, Hijazi said that "Libya deals with Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, who has stressed his respect for good-neighborliness and opposition to whatever violates the Constitution. As for al-Turabi's front, we have nothing to do with it. Besides, Libya is free from the so-called fundamentalist movement in view of the People's Congresses system it enjoys." [passage omitted]

Official Refutes Reports

NC0709202595 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Sept 7 (AFP)—Libya denied reports Thursday [7 September] of deadly clashes between security forces and Moslem militants in the eastern city of Banghazi, saying police had only arrested three drug traffickers.

"The reports from the western media of clashes are nothing but lies," said a justice ministry official.

"What was reported are pure lies. It was just a police pursuit and the arrest of three drug traffickers," the official told AFP, without giving a date for the incident.

Travellers crossing into Egypt said earlier that clashes between security forces and Moslem militants in Banghazi had left around 30 dead — 20 Islamists and 10 policemen.

The violence erupted after a fight between an Islamist cab driver and a policeman moonlighting as a taxi driver, they said. Security forces intervened on the side of the policeman and sparked armed battles in Banghazi's streets.

Clashes were also reported in late June between Islamists and police in the Mediterranean coastal region of Banghazi.

Official Source Denies 'Lies' of Western Media

LD0709210395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 7 Sep — A source at the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security denied the false allegations circulated by AFP and other Western media.

The source told the Libyan news agency JANA today that the reports circulated by those mass media were sheer lies, pointing out that the issue was connected with the pursuance of three criminals and drug smugglers by policemen who succeeded in arresting them.

The source of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security asked: Since when was the pursuance of criminals and drug traffickers a political act?

The source wondered: How could AFP and some other prominent media be so (? naive), as power in Libya is the power of all the people which they exercise through

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the congresses and the people's committees, and there is no ruler, and no ruled.

The source said that everybody knows that the Libyan revolution was an Islamic revolution that expressed the aspirations of Muslims throughout the world, and that it is the leader of the international Islamic popular leadership.

Sudanese Workers Deported as Security Threat

NC0709143795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTERS reports that the Libyan authorities are currently deporting thousands of Sudanese workers who entered Libya illegally and whose presence threatens security.

REUTERS notes that the Libyan authorities recently uncovered a terrorist organization linked with the Sudanese al-Turabi National Islamic Front, acting to destabilize Libya and other Arab Maghreb countries.

Arab diplomatic sources said the plan uncovered by the Libyan authorities is similar to plans that have been uncovered in Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, and Senegal. This plan is part of the policy pursued by the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime to plant the seeds of instability in the region.

Opposition Says Sudan Scheming Against Country

NC0709203195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim, a member of the executive bureau and the official responsible for media in the opposition Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, stated today that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is being subjected to a very dangerous conspiracy by the Sudanese regime, aiming to topple the Libyan regime. The Sudanese oppositionist added that al-Turabi's people have started luring some Libyan opposition figures and training them in a camp west of Khartoum. Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim also noted that al- Turabi's scheming against Libya is part of a bigger scheme aimed at creating disturbances in the Arab Maghreb countries. Therefore the Libyan Government should take immediate and decisive measures to avert the incoming Sudanese danger.

Palestinians Declare Support for 'Collective Return'

LD0709182195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Khums, 7 Sep — The Palestinian Arab masses in the town of Al-Khums have stressed their absolute support for a collective return to the land of Palestine. This will expose and lay bare the capitulationist solutions and reinforce the popular revolution and the spirit of steadfastness and resistance. Our aim is to liberate Palestine from the river to the sea and from the south to the south [as received].

The cable sent by the Palestinian masses to the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] said: O revolutionary leader, with all pride and glory we declare our absolute stance alongside you and our support for the collective return to Palestine. This will not only expose and lay bare the capitulationist solutions, but will also fan the flame of the popular revolution and the spirit of steadfastness and resistance thereby liberating all of Palestine from the river to the sea and from the south to the south [as received].

We also declare our complete and determined readiness to carry out all the programs which you see as a means for our return to our homeland. [passage omitted]

We stand with you and you can be confident, O leader who has heightened our self-esteem and our honor, that we are with you and fight alongside you, and that the Palestinian masses give and sacrifice, and will continue to do so, and that the so-called peace is weak in our region, which is not a region of stability and the alleged peace as long as the usurping enemy remains. We once more reiterate our assurance that we support the return and that we will carry out all your directives because we have confidence in you, your revolution and your wisdom. [passage omitted]

Editor Denounces U.S. Mobilization in Gulf

LD0809095195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2315 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reports are successively recounting news of the American military reinforcements and mobilizations which are successively being sent to the Arab region and which have completely covered the Arabian Gulf region. [passage omitted] The international affairs editor has denounced this flagrant American, Western violation of Arab waters and territories, and said: These huge reinforcements and the military machine which is heavily armed with the most modern deadly weapons and weapons of mass destruction produced by American and Western companies have expropriated the Arab homeland in an unprecedented manner.

The editor continues by saying: The mobilization of military forces of this size can only have taken place to wage a world war or to occupy territories, and the aggressive intention of this move has given America the potential to act.

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The JANA international affairs editor continues by saying: The statements of American officials at the highest level constitute obvious terrorism against the Arab nation in preparation for the occupation of the Arab homeland once more and the domination of its potentials and extortion of its wealth.

The editor stresses that in further researching the positions in which these American military forces have been stationed, it becomes clear that they have completely occupied numerous strategic positions in the Arab homeland containing a high proportion of wealth and Arab economic resources, which confirms the aggressive intentions behind this design which America has actually started to implement in reality. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Saddam Message

JN0809102395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 8 Sep (INA)—Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, arrived in Rabat last night.

In a press statement upon arrival at Casablanca's King Mohamed V International Airport, Ahmad Husayn said that he is carrying an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II concerning developments in the Arab arena and the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq on the one hand and the UN Special Commission and the Security Council on the other.

Prime Minister Receives Egyptian Economy Minister

LD0609141695 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the prime minister's office this morning Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, received Muhmud Muhammad Mahmud Bayyumi, the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, who is visiting our country at the head of an important delegation to participate in the Moroccan-Egyptian joint trade committee session.

The talks focused on fraternal ties between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Egypt and various aspects of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic and trade sectors. [passage omitted]

Trade Protocol Signed

LD0709144495 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sep. 7 (MAP) — Morocco and Egypt signed Wednesday an additional protocol related to the implementation of the trade and customs preference accord, signed between the two countries in 1988.

The protocol provides for the elaboration of new lists of totally or partly tax free products. The document was signed by Moroccan Foreign Trade Minister Mohamed Alami and Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign trade Mahmud Mohamed Mahmud. The protocol will boost trade exchange between Morocco and Egypt and will foster contacts between the two countries' economic operators.

Trade exchange between the two countries witnessed a fluctuating evolution marked by an increase in 1990 attaining over 380 million dirhams against 33 million dirhams in 1980. As of 1991, exchange went downward to reach about 138 million in 1994 (a US dollar is about 8.5 dirhams).

The protocol was finalized by the Moroccan-Egyptian trade commission which started proceedings Monday in Rabat at the level of experts.

Mahmud Mohamed Mahmud who arrived in Morocco Tuesday to lead his delegation to the works of the commission held a series of meetings with Moroccan officials.

He conferred with premier and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, advisor to King Hassan II for economic and financial affairs, Andre Azulay, minister of trade, industry and handicraft, Mohamed Kabbaj, and Privatization Minister Abderrahmane Saidi.

The Egyptian minister discussed with the Moroccan officials ways to boost bilateral cooperation and means to increase the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries.

Discussions underscored the role played by the private sector and the necessity to boost joint investments. They also underlined the importance of promoting inter-Arab economic cooperation to keep pace with various economic groupings.

Prime Minister To Lead Islamic Delegation on Bosnia

LD0609171495 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation,

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left for Paris today in order to lead the delegation of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia at its meeting with the International Contact Group due to take place in Paris tomorrow. [passage omitted]

French Judicial Delegation Visits, Signs Accord

LD0509135895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A French judicial delegation arrived in Morocco today to promote cooperation in the area of the judiciary. The French delegation is headed by Pierre Drai, first president of the Court of Cassation.

The French judicial delegation was welcomed at Rabat-Sale Airport by Mohamed Mikou, first president of the Supreme Court; Hassan Ofir, his majesty's attorney general; and by other officials.

The French official said that this visit is important to the promotion of cooperation in the judicial area between Morocco and France.

[Unidentified correspondent] Pierre Drai said that during his visit at the head of the French judicial delegation he hopes to consolidate the excellent relations of cooperation and partnership between the Moroccan Higher Judicial Council and the French Court of Cassation.

A cooperation agreement between the two countries will be signed tomorrow to strengthen existing cooperation between the two judicial bodies. He said that this cooperation will undoubtedly make available the means to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of cooperation between judges and judicial staff in both countries. He added that cooperation at this level reflects the aspiration to consolidate and embody the rule of law in Morocco and France which are bound by common high values and principles. [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLM-SPLA Forces Reportedly Repulse Offensive

EA0709175495 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLM-SPLA] forces have repulsed an offensive along the (Wingbul)-Nimule road. [passage omitted]

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's Liberation Army have repulsed a major offensive launched by the forces of the National Islamic Front. The fighting began on 25 August, and continued until the day before yesterday. The National Islamic Front suffered 56 dead and 98 wounded. A number of members of the so-called Ugandan Lord's Resistance army, which is supported by the Khartoum regime, were also killed and wounded.

Among the dead who have been identified was the commander of the National Islamic Front forces involved in the fighting, Col. 'Abd al-Wahab al-Tayyib, his deputy Lieutenant-Colonel Fadl al-Mawla Ibrahim fadl al-Mawla, 2d Lt. Usama al-Maqbul, and 2d Lt. Abdullah Muhammad 'Uthman. Among the wounded was 2d Lt. Kamal Fath al-Rahman Salim, 2d Lt. al-Tayyib Mu'tasim, and 2d Lt. (retired) 'Umar Ali.

Former Prime Minister Gives Friday Prayer Sermon

EA0709203595 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a Friday prayer sermon on 1 September at Wad Mubawi Mosque after his release from prison, former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the majority of Sudanese feel responsibility towards their country, and feel that Sudan should be governed democratically and in such a manner as to guarantee basic freedoms such as freedom of expression, and of the press and education.

Al-Mahdi condemned the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, stressing that the attempt was an expression of intellectual bankruptcy and moral decay on the part of the terrorists. In his speech, al-Mahdi asked any country or individuals who had information on the whereabouts of terrorists to report them.

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Bahrain

Government Said Not To Keep Prisoner-Release Accord

NC0709211995 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Sept 7 (AFP)—Bahrain failed to keep to an agreement to release around 150 prisoners on Thursday [7 September] and instead carried out more arrests, an opposition group charged.

Bahraini lawyers said the previous day that some 150 people arrested in protests earlier this year would be freed under a deal struck in August.

"Nobody was released today," said the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement (BFM), in a statement received in Nicosia. Instead, police arrested four more opposition figures.

The BFM named them as Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Adnan, Hasan Mushaymah, Hasan Sultan and Husayn al-Dayhi, who had been released in August and taken part in drawing up the agreement.

There was no official confirmation of the group's report.

About 150 prisoners were released on August 16 and another 500 to 600 were to go free in a third and final stage at the end of September, according to the lawyers.

Sources close to the opposition said under the deal they had agreed not to hold any demonstrations for two months. Troubles erupted in the Gulf archipelago in December, but have virtually died out since April.

Parliament has been suspended in the former British protectorate since 1975, and unrest flared after the arrests of Shiite leaders calling for a restoration of parliamentary life. At least 12 people were killed.

The BFM on Wednesday gave a cautious welcome to the apparent deal, warning however that "the fate of previous accords with the Al-Khalifah government does not lend itself to optimism."

However another opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, said it was not bound by the accord.

Oman

State Minister Returns Home From Iran Visit

JN0709174895 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 7 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Muscat from Tehran this afternoon following an official three-day visit to Iran. During the visit, he conveyed an oral message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY cited Bin-'Alawi as saying that he discussed with Iranian officials bilateral relations and ways to promote and enhance them. He added that they agreed on the overall issues discussed. He said that the meetings and contacts in Iran were fruitful and useful and that they served the common interests.

Qatar

Tunisian Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD0709141495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Doha yesterday evening. He said that he was carrying a message of amity and appreciation from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and the brotherly Qatari Government and people.

He added that the visit came within the framework of the ongoing consultations and coordination between Tunisia and Qatar aimed at consolidating the distinguished bilateral relations in all fields as well as exchanging views regarding the situation in the Arab world which requires further thinking, contemplation, and consultations for the benefit of the Arab nation.

The visit comes within the framework of the foreign minister's tour of a number of Arab countries as a special envoy of President Ben Ali.

Yemen

President Leaves for Medical Checkups in U.S.

JN0709205395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Sanaa for the United States this afternoon on a private visit to undergo some medical checkups.

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The brother president was seen off at Sanaa International Airport by brothers Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the deputy prime ministers, a number of advisers to the president, the ministers, and members of the House of Representatives speakership. He was also seen off by the secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, some senior civil and military officials, and brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, Saudi ambassador and doyen of the diplomatic corps in Sanaa.

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Husayn Kamil Says Russia Lied in Denying Tank Order

NC0709175995 Paris AFP in English 1752 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept 7 (AFP)—Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan on Thursday [7 September] accused Moscow of lying in its denial that Baghdad had ordered 4,000 Russian tanks.

Valeriy Pogrebenkov, spokesman of Russia's state-run Rosvooruzhenie company for military exports, "would have done better to shut up rather than spread lies," the former industry minister told AFP.

Hasan was also the chief of Iraq's armament programmes before his defection to Jordan on August 8.

Pogrebenkov denied Wednesday that Iraq had ordered 4,000 tanks as claimed by Hasan. "There has been no such official request from Iraq ... To me, the figure seems enormous," the spokesman said.

Hasan told UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Baghdad had ordered 4,000 modern tanks from Moscow, a western diplomat in Amman said Tuesday.

Under the deal agreed a few months ago, the tanks would be delivered over several years once the UN embargo imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been lifted, Hasan reportedly told Ekeus last month.

But Pogrebenkov said "there is currently no military or technical cooperation (with Iraq) because of the UN sanctions."

The general hit back by asking: "Then what is the man in charge of the Iraqi army's weapons procurements doing at present in Moscow, where he is accompanied by six Iraqi officers?"

"Contacts between Iraq and Russia in all departments, including armaments, have never been broken off."

'Sources' Dismiss Russian Denial of Tank Deal

MM0709150295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat and Ibrahim Humaydi: "Western Confirmation Despite Russian Denial of Tank Deal With Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Damascus — The Syrian press was yesterday content with publishing the statements made by Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in which he praised President Hafiz al-Asad's statements on Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources yesterday confirmed the report that Iraq concluded a deal two months ago to purchase 4,000 [as published; 5 Sep AL-HAYAH report gives figure 400] tanks from Russia, provided the deal is implemented after the international embargo imposed on Iraq has been lifted, despite a Russian denial of this report.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the Russian denial issued yesterday by a spokesman for the company manufacturing the tanks was "weak and inconclusive — which reinforces our belief that the deal has actually been signed."

The diplomatic sources had told AL-HAYAH that General Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan four weeks ago with two of his brothers, signed a contract for the tanks during a visit to Moscow two months ago. They estimated the value of the deal at $2 to 3 billion.

The diplomatic sources said that the aim of Baghdad's decision to conclude the tanks deal with Russia could be to offer an incentive to Moscow "to help speed up the lifting of the economic embargo on Iraq."

As is known, Husayn Kamil held the post of industry and military industrialization minister before his defection to Jordan in August.

Commenting on the Russian denial, the diplomatic sources said that the denial was issued by a spokesman for the company manufacturing the tanks, not by a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry. The sources added that the Russian denial stressed the nonexistence of "an official request from Iraq to purchase the tanks — which is "natural, since the deal was not official because of its violation of the international sanctions, and because it is supposed to be announced after the sanctions have been lifted, that is when its implementation becomes legal." [quotemarks as published]

The sources pointed out that Moscow "does not want to be subjected to U.S. pressure at this particular time."

The sources quoted the spokesman of the Russian manufacturing company as saying that the size of the deal (4,000 tanks) "seems very big" — which gives the impression that the deal itself exists and that the disagreement is over the correct figure.

The sources added that the information about the deal was provided by Rolf Ekeus, head of the international committee entrusted with dismantling Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, and that he obtained this information from Husayn Kamil himself when they met in Amman three weeks ago. [passage omitted]

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National Assembly To Meet on Saddam Nomination

JN0709195995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1917 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Unscheduled announcement]

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the National Assembly:

It has been decided to hold an extraordinary session for the National Assembly at 1000 hours on Sunday, 10 September 1995, to examine the nomination of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman for the post of the president of the republic in accordance with RCC Decree No. 86, issued on 7 September 1995.

All assembly members should be present on the set date.

[Signed] The acting National Assembly speaker

Saddam Referendum Decision on Reelection 'Sham'

NC0709195895 Paris AFP in English 1951 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept 7 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's decision on Thursday [7 September] to run for reelection in a referendum is a sham aimed at limiting the damage of last month's defections, an opposition group charged.

"We know the result in advance: a 99.99 percent 'yes' vote, as in all dictatorships," said Akram al-Hakim of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI).

"It's just to give the appearance of freedom," said the Moslem fundamentalist official, contacted by AFP in London.

"Saddam is taking measures to try and give himself some legitimacy after the damage of the defections" to Jordan last month of former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother.

The official Iraqi news agency INA earlier announced that Saddam was to run for another seven-year term subject for the first time to approval in a referendum after endorsement in parliament.

Hakim charged that the president, with an eye on the next review of UN sanctions, was trying "to evade UN resolutions on respect for human rights in Iraq."

The UN Security Council is Saturday to review the crippling embargo which has been in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

RCC Issues Decrees Amending Constitution

JN0709181795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

After the joint meeting, the RCC held a special meeting during which it issued a decree amending the constitution. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, culture and information minister, will kindly read the text of the constitutional amendment and the decrees issued during the joint meeting:

[Begin Hammadi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq
The RCC
Number of Decree: 85
Date of Decree: 7 September 1995
Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph B of Article 66 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided to issue the following constitutional amendment:

Article 1: Texts of Paragraphs A, B, and C of Article 38 of the Constitution shall be canceled, and shall be replaced by the following:

A. A chairman for it shall be elected from among its members and he will be called the chairman of the RCC.

B. A vice chairman shall be elected from among its members and he will be called the vice chairman of the RCC.

C. Making a decision on the resignation [al-batt fi istiqalat] of the vice chairman or one of the RCC members.

Article 2: The following shall be added to the Constitution, and it shall be Article 57 of the Constitution: Article 57: A. The RCC shall nominate its chairman to assume the post of president of the republic, and shall refer the nomination to the National Assembly to consider it.

B. The National Assembly will hold a special session to look into the nomination and will issue a resolution by a majority vote. If the National Assembly rejects the nomination, a joint meeting of the RCC and the National Assembly under the chairmanship of the RCC vice chairman will be held to make a decision on the nomination.

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C. After the nomination is approved, it will be presented for a general popular referendum.

D. The general popular referendum will be held by a free, secret, and direct ballot within a period not exceeding 60 days from the date on which the National Assembly approved the nomination. The law will govern the referendum's regulations.

E. If the nomination wins the majority of the votes, the chairman of the higher commission supervising the referendum will announce the nominee's winning the post of the president of the republic.

F. Within seven days of the announcement of the results of the referendum, the president of the republic will take the constitutional oath at a joint session of the RCC and National Assembly under the chairmanship of the RCC vice chairman. The text of the oath will be as follows:

I swear by Almighty God, by my honor, and my creed that I will preserve Iraq's independence, its safety, and territorial integrity; protect the republican system; and adhere to the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution, the constitution, and the law; and will observe the interests of the people and work sincerely and earnestly to preserve the people's dignity, pride, and happiness and to realize the Arab nation's aims of unity, freedom, and socialism.

G. The term of the presidency is a renewable seven-year term. It begins on the date the president takes the oath of office.

H. In case the President's office becomes vacant for any reason, the RCC vice chairman will temporarily assume the duties of the RCC chairman and the president of the republic until a new RCC chairman and president of the republic is elected in accordance with the constitution within 60 days from the date when the president's office becomes vacant.

Article 3.

A. This constitutional amendment will be effective as of the date of issue.

B. The RCC chairman and president of the republic will continue to carry out his prerogatives and duties as stipulated in the constitution until the president of the republic assumes his official duties in accordance with this amendment.

[Signed] RCC chairman, Saddam Husayn

Based on the provisions of the constitutional amendments, the RCC issued the following decree during its session today:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq
The RCC
Decree No. 86
Date of Decree: 7 September 1995
Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 57 of the constitution, the RCC, during its session on 7 September 1995, unanimously decided to nominate its chairman, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to assume the post of the president of the republic, and to refer this nomination to the National Assembly for review.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

An authorized RCC spokesman stated the following:

The RCC and the party leadership, since the beginning of the eighties, have been preoccupied by the issue of moving from the formula of the revolutionary legitimacy to the formula of the constitutional legitimacy, and by the need to establish renewing and developing formulas for the democratic practice within the country's objective circumstances. Among the basic issues which were discussed was the issue of electing the president of the republic or holding a referendum on the election by the people. In 1982, during the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn proposed to the leadership to hold elections on the post of the president of the republic. However, the leadership decided to postpone this until after the end of the aggression against the country. Under those circumstances, the masses of the people expressed their sincere will by paying allegiance to the leader in a spontaneous manner throughout Iraq. Following the end of the battle of al-Qadisiyahy with a plain victory, the party leadership and the RCC discussed the issue once again. After a discussion and study which lasted several months, a draft constitution was prepared and presented for a broad democratic discussion by the masses of the people and the National Assembly. However, the circumstances which followed the eternal Mother of Battles and the circumstances of the direct unjust blockade have obstructed this approach. Two years ago, leader President Saddam Husayn resubmitted the issue to the leadership. However, the difficult circumstances surrounding the country, particularly the abnormal situation in the Autonomous Region which is actually under semi-occupation by U.S. forces and its allies, have urged the leadership to ponder the issue until the blockade is lifted and the situation in the Autonomous Region is back to normal. However, several years have passed under these circumstances, and the people with suspect intentions outside the country began to cast doubts on the leadership's sincere inten-

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tions of proceeding with the democratic approach which it has approved and called for in principle. The leadership found that higher national interests and the need to express the leadership's sincere efforts in dealing with the substantial issues necessitate, despite the country's difficult circumstances due to the unjust blockade, the imperialist conspiracies, and the abnormal situation in the Autonomous Region, a genuine and direct action to renew and reiterate allegiance to the unique and mujahid leader Saddam Husayn through a democratic and constitutional manner. This action, in form and content, expresses the great Iraqi people's clear and unequivocal reply to all the lies and nonsense of the enemies of Iraq—a reply which is in harmony with the people's genuine nature and unique capabilities which they have expressed through valiant fighting in the glorious al-Qadisiyah and the eternal Mother of Battles, through their jihad and patience under the circumstances of the unjust blockade, through the creative reconstruction, through their deep and sincere faith in the national and pan-Arab principles, and through adherence to their faithful, mujahid, and honest leader Saddam Husayn.

Based on these meanings and their reasons, an appropriate amendment to the constitution was made so that the candidate for the presidency will be put to a referendum. God is great.

A republican decree was issued today calling a special session of the National Assembly next Sunday to look into the RCC's decree naming leader President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC, to the post of the president. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree No. 274

Based on the provisions of Article 48 of the constitution and Paragraph 3 of Article 57 of National Assembly Law No. 55 of 1980, we have decreed the following:

The National Assembly shall be called to an extraordinary session on 10 September 1995 to look into naming the RCC chairman for the presidency in accordance with RCC Decree No. 86 dated 7 September 1995. The National Assembly speaker shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 7 September 1995.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic [end recording]

Canceled Paragraphs Provided

JN0709195095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1916 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following is the text of Paragraphs A, B, and C of Article 38 of the Constitution that were canceled in accordance with the Revolution Command Council's [RCC] Decree No. 85 dated 7 September 1995. The canceled paragraphs are:

A. The RCC shall elect a chairman from among its members called the chairman of the RCC, who shall definitely be president of the republic.

B. The RCC shall elect a vice chairman from among its members called the vice chairman of the RCC, who will definitely replace the chairman and take his powers that are defined in the previous paragraph if the chairman is absent or cannot exercise his constitutional powers for any legitimate reason.

C. The RCC shall make a decision on the resignation of the chairman, the vice chairman, or any member of the RCC.

Five Dead, 9 Hurt in Second Blast in Irbil

NC0709141195 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Irbil, Iraq, Sept 7 (AFP)—A bomb attack against a top Kurdish official in northern Iraq killed five people and wounded nine others here on Thursday [7 September], in the second deadly explosion in the main Kurdish-held town in as many days.

Kusrat Rasul, a former "prime minister" of the Kurds' self-declared administration in northern Iraq, survived the blast which took place as his convoy of six cars left his office on the outskirts of Irbil.

Four of his bodyguards travelling in the first two cars were killed along with a child playing nearby, doctors said. [passage omitted]

Rasul, a leader of the PUK which controls Irbil, told AFP that the bomb was planted in an empty shop 50 metres (yards) from his office and detonated by remote control.

"There was between 50 to 100 kilogrammes (110-220 pounds) of TNT in the shop," he said after returning from the funerals of three of his bodyguards.

A doctor at the main hospital in Irbil said the nine injured were all in serious condition. Six are bodyguards, while an 11-year-old boy and his nine-year-old sister were also wounded. The ninth was a male passer-by.

The mother of the injured children, Surayya Shuru, said they were playing outside their house opposite the shop when the bomb exploded.

Several residents of the town blamed the two bomb attacks on the Turkish Kurd separatist PKK, which since

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late August has launched attacks on the KDP in areas on the border with Turkey.

When asked whether he thought the PKK was involved, however, Rasul said: "No, no, definitely not."

He said there was no indication so far who was responsible but added: "We will find out." [passage omitted on background material]

The KDP condemned Wednesday's car-bomb attack.

A doctor at Irbil hospital said there was a third, small explosion on Thursday in a field on the outskirts of the town. Three people were injured, he said.

KDP Representative Says 10 'Terrorists' Killed

TA0709113295 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Twelve people, 10 of them terrorists, were killed in clashes between the forces of Mas'ud Barzani's Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] and PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists.

(Safeen Diza'i), the KDP representative in Ankara, issued a statement saying that PKK terrorists have been waging an extensive assault in northern Iraq for the past two weeks. He said that 10 terrorists were killed yesterday alone. He went on to say that two members of the KDP forces were also killed in the fighting that took place near the village of (Begova), some 15 km south of the border.

The KDP had announced earlier that some 40 terrorists were killed, 17 high-level PKK officials caught, and numerous weapons and ammunition seized.

KDP Condemns Explosion Targeting Kurdish Leader

NC0809082895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (MENA)—A spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in the autonomous region in northern Iraq has denied his party's responsibility for or involvement in yesterday's explosion in Irbil targeting Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, head of the Kurdistan government, which is not recognized by the central government in Baghdad.

An explosion took place in Irbil yesterday, killing three personal guards of Kusrat Rasul 'Ali and wounding a number of people.

In a statement broadcast by the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, the mouthpiece of KDP, monitored here this morning, the spokesman stated that his party has nothing to do with he explosion, which he described as a terrorist operation. The spokesman condemned the explosion and added that the KDP strongly denounces all terrorist actions targeting the life and property of innocent people.

Kusrat Rasul 'Ali is a prominent and leading figure in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which is led by Jalal Talabani. The PUK, the main rival of KDP, has accused the latter of being behind yesterday's explosion in Irbil.

Observers believe the explosion could trigger a new bout of fighting between the two rival Kurdish parties in northern Iraq following the agreement they reached in early August in Ireland, under the auspices of the United States.

In another development, a KDP spokesman, in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan and monitored in Baghdad this morning, denied recent reports carried by a Western news agency citing a KDP spokesman on the role of Syria and Iran in the recent clashes in northern Iraq between KDP fighters and fighters from the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]. The clashes killed and wounded scores of people.

Expressing appreciation for all the neighboring states, the spokesman added: We look forward to developed relations with them to overcome the difficulties we are facing.

Islamic Opposition Rejects 'Foreign Interference'

JN0709171495 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1405 GMT 7 Sep 95

[By Ahmad al-'Ani, radio correspondent "abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive statement to our radio, a responsible source in the Iraqi Islamic opposition today asserted that conditions in Iraq are aggravating, that the regime is in confusion and disarray, and that the regime is collapsing.

Commenting on the reaction by the regime's foreign minister to the Syrian Government's statement that this government is taking the right course, the source said these statements clearly expose the weakness of the regime. He said the regime is trying to cling to anything to avoid the crisis that is overwhelming it. The source noted that the differences which the regime created with the Syrian Government are too deep. The source said that through its reckless policy and its foolish actions against its neighbors, the regime has no one left to support it.

On another level, the source said that the Islamic opposition rejects any foreign interference in the Iraqi

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people's affairs, pointing out that the Islamic opposition will stand against any plan to confiscate the opinion and struggle of the Iraqi people through the imposition of ready-made formulas. He said efforts to polish the images of the defectors from the regime are a poor attempt, pointing out that the likes of Husayn Kamil and Wafiq al-Samarra'i cannot be included in the opposition plans because their hands are stained with blood.

It is noteworthy that in the past, the regime issued statements about the Egyptian regime that are similar to those it made on Syria. However, the regime later went back on its statements and instructed its media to attack Egypt.

Paper Hails Egypt-Syria 'Awakening' on Iraq

MM0609155495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Egyptian-Syrian Awakening?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. experts who are skilled in Arab affairs stress to us day and night that recent splits in Iraq, represented in the defection of General Husayn Kamil and his brother, have substantially weakened the Iraqi regime and pushed it into the dying stage — which has thrilled the old and new opposition and revealed open moves by some inheritors aimed at dividing the legacy and distributing the booty, as though the bear is in the trap and all that remains is to compete over skinning it.

If the Iraqi regime is really dying, why is the United States dispatching 12 military cargo ships to Kuwait, carrying tanks, guns, and combat equipment, in addition to scores of ships, aircraft carriers, and heavy weapons depots that have been in the region and its waters since the second Gulf war?

As is known, the Arab Gulf states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have over the past five years alone spent more than $100 billion to modernize their armies and purchase the latest aircraft, missiles, and tanks. These armies are supposed to be able to defend the region against any new Iraqi attack. Unless these billions were not spent on what was declared. Or maybe weapons have been purchased for the sake of display or for purposes other than use in the battlefield and self-defense, especially as Israel is no longer an enemy in the view of many Arabs.

We can only understand all these moves and the current military exercises as a new "blackmail" attempt designed to soak up the money that has accumulated in the banks in the region's states as a result of the slight improvement in oil prices. Especially as Kuwait and its allies are obliged to pay the expenses of these forces, both the new and old forces. That is, including food, drinks, fuel, ammunition, and travel and entertainment allowances.

U.S. statistics indicate that more than 30,000 U.S. soldiers have been present in the Arabian Peninsula since Iraqi troops were deployed on the Kuwaiti border in October 1994. And despite U.S. President Bill Clinton's promises to withdraw them before Christmas of that year, they are still in their positions as a preventive measure in anticipation of a new Iraqi attack. The Kuwaiti Government is paying the bills, which exceed $1 billion, and this is a conservative estimate. This is in addition to the expenses of the ships and naval vessels roaming Gulf waters, whose number exceeds 50 ships, frigates, and aircraft carriers, and all the equipment of the 5th Fleet, which is allocated for the region and its protection.

It is likely that a new U.S. strike is on its way to Iraq, preceded by the closure of its only outlet to the world, that of Jordan. This explains the recent sudden Egyptian-Syrian alarm and the unfamiliar Iraqi diplomatic performance represented in an attempt to establish a tactical alliance with Iran to confront the great U.S. Satan. In addition to Iraq's praise for Syria because it played down the importance of Husayn Kamil's defection.

The Egyptian-Syrian awakening in the face of the new U.S. scenario emerged not for the sake of Iraq, but because the two countries now realize that any change there will not be in the interests of their roles in the region. Because any regime in Baghdad based on the proposed views will be purely American. And it will reinforce dealings with Israel, prepare for hot normalization, and maybe work to build a new alliance designed to eclipse the Egyptian and Syrian role, besiege the two countries, and turn Egypt into "another Nigeria" — a huge population drowned in domestic problems and foreign debts — and Syria into an arena of conflicts and military coups along the lines of what happened there in the late fifties and early sixties.

Regrettably, Egypt and Syria have built their strategy on the basis that the current situation in Iraq would remain without change because it suits their short-sighted regional aspirations. When Jordan intervened as a major player in the U.S. scenario for a change in Iraq, the two countries' leaderships were clearly confused. We saw President Hafiz al-Asad rushing to Cairo to hold an urgent meeting with President Husni Mubarak without the participation of any of the "Damascus Declaration" states, traditional allies of the two countries.

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In practice King Husayn did nothing more than his Egyptian and Syrian opposite numbers did five years ago, that is joining the U.S. coalition against Iraq. He had realized that he made a mistake by not joining this coalition, and that this coalition was his proper place, so he decided to correct the mistake by leapfrogging the Egyptian and Syrian roles and to submit to the legal saying that there is no such thing as half a sheep: either the whole sheep or no sheep at all.

He, that is King Husayn, must be confused these days over the Syrian-Egyptian reaction. Because when he sympathized with Iraq and joined its camp, he was boycotted and subjected to criticism and attacks, and he was marginalized. When he turned his back on Iraq, tried to correct his "mistake," and joined their camp, they intensified the attack and the boycott. Is there any worse confusion in the positions than this?

Despite our numerous reservations, we can only support any position opposed to partitioning Iraq and to U.S. interference to change its regime or any other Arab regime. This is why we welcome the Syrian-Egyptian awakening if it is in this framework. If its intentions are good and if it is based on solid pan-Arab foundations, the Egyptian-Syrian alliance can change numerous equations and rectify the current defects in the region as a whole. But because of previous experience, especially following the swift backtracking on the Alexandria tripartite summit, which opposed the rush toward normalization, and following the unjustifiable backtracking on all the positions demanding that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty should not be signed before Israel signs it, we say that as a result of all this and other things, we are not going to be overoptimistic. We prefer to wait. The disappointments we have suffered in the past are enough.

We are tired of media campaigns and "veiled" statements that can be interpreted in more than one way. We want open and practical positions demanding that the blockade on Iraq and its people be lifted — positions that return joint Arab action to its natural course, not to prepare for war, because that is impossible after the recent grave mistakes made by all parties, but, rather, to restore some respect for this nation, reduce its losses, and slow the rate of collapse if it cannot be stopped completely.

Daily Assails U.S. Role, 'Hatred' Toward Iraq

JN0709165195 Baghdad INA in English
1310 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 7, INA — An Arab writer has said that the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq, in which more than half a million soldiers took place, aimed at preventing the growing of any independent Arab Islamic power.

Muhammad 'Arab Sa'id said in an article in AL-QADISIYAH paper on Thursday [7 September] that the confrontation between Iraq and the aggression states resulted from the fear that Iraq's path under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn will definitely lead to building an independent power capable of confrontation and based on an independent national economy.

The article also reviewed the Western interests such as the British and American in the Arab region and the role these countries played in firming the Zionist entity presence in the region.

The writer added that the statements being given by the American administration officials reflect this administration's hatred towards Iraq, its people and leadership and the insistence on having the embargo continued.

He said President Saddam Husayn has been and will remain the symbol of steadfastness and courage against the enemies' schemings.

Bulletin Says Iraq Considering Pipeline to Jordan

NC0609113895 Paris AFP in English
0855 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 6 (AFP)— Iraq is considering building a pipeline to transport crude oil to Jordan to replace tankers shuttling across the borders of the two Arab neighbours, an official report said on Wednesday [6 September].

The pipeline, with a capacity of 250,000 barrels per day (bpd), will stretch around 590 kilometres (368 miles) from the northern Iraqi town of Hadithah to al-Zarqa', northwest of the Jordanian capital Amman, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said in its September bulletin.

It said a delegation from the two countries would go to New York to discuss the project with the United Nations, which has barred Iraq from exporting oil under crippling sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Negotiations will be conducted with regional and international investment institution to secure financing for the project, which will cost around 1.4 billion dollars," the Kuwaiti-based group said.

It made no mention of the latest political upheaval in Iraq caused by the defection of top officials to Jordan. The problem has soured ties between Baghdad and Amman, which is seeking other sources of oil supplies.

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Jordan currently imports around 55,000 bpd of crude and 20,000 bpd of oil products from Iraq, the world's second biggest oil power after Saudi Arabia.

The imports have been sanctioned by the United Nations.

OAPEC, which groups 10 key Arab oil producers, said last month the proposed Iraqi pipeline could be extended later to supply crude to a refinery Jordan plans to build at its southern port of al-'Aqabah.

Saddam Asked To Hand Rajavi to Iran

95LH0251A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jul 95 pp 30-32

[Report by Riyad 'Alam-al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia—"We did not know that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard could threaten Saddam Husayn's regime more than the CIA and all the Iraqi opposition forces, including the army," a Western diplomat, who lived many years in Iraq, said. He was commenting, with sarcasm, about the military operation that took place Monday, 10 July, in the Qanat al-Jaysh neighborhood of Baghdad, which left three members of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] dead.

The diplomat knew the nature of the Iraqi regime and the structure of its security departments reasonably well. He knew that the current lack of security control in Iraq did not mean that Iranian agents could run free and assassinate opposition members, after a pursuit of 20 km in Baghdad, without the authorities knowing or doing anything. Like other observers, this expert on Iraqi affairs knew that whatever was being said about security defects, "Iraq is not free and uncontrolled to such an extent. The countless security forces can intervene within minutes. If they do not intervene, it is because they are involved, colluding, or have not been given the green light, but the security forces watch what happens closely." He continues: "It is not by chance or because of security indiscipline that the Ashraf Camp, the largest military base the Iraqis have put at the MKO's disposal, was attacked with 14 Katyusha rockets one day before that incident. This camp is about 90 km northeast of Baghdad and about 60 km from the Iranian border." He wonders: How was the Iranian Revolutionary Guard able to infiltrate all this distance and attack this military base without any response by the Iraqi forces, which have been on a maximum state of alert since the Gulf war?

According to this diplomat and other observers of Iranian-Iraqi relations, everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen in the coming days is planned and coordinated. It is based on a previously approved plan between Tehran and Baghdad. It is part of a scenario to normalize the relations and speed up the negotiations between the two former enemies to establish an alliance against their common enemy, the United States, and the "dual containment" strategy.

Despite the official protest Iraq submitted to Iran about the Ashraf Camp attack and the denunciations and attacks Baghdad made against Tehran, this diplomat affirms that everything said about fresh tension between the two countries and about a setback in the coordination and normalization efforts is not true. He notes that significant progress has been made in behind-the-scenes contacts between the two capitals and that the two recent operations confirm this progress and not deny it.

This diplomat revealed that negotiations have been taking place between the two countries since the visit of 'Ali Khoram, adviser of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to Baghdad at the end of May. Iran has increased its assistance to Iraq by providing large quantities of goods and essential commodities, in violation of the blockade. The number of Iraqi oil tankers going to Iran has increased. Baghdad has also received Iranian medical aid. He adds: Perhaps the most important factor was the exchange of delegations and visits between the two countries, particularly security and intelligence delegations. They devised plans for security coordination between Baghdad and Tehran and the exchange of information about the activity of the opposition groups, particularly inside Iraq. According to the latest reports, the two countries have made good progress in dealing with the prisoners of war problem. As an expression of their goodwill, or perhaps because they were aware of the serious situations facing both of them, they agreed to overcome the sensitive issues and previous obstacles, such as the borders and war reparations, to promote normalization to confront the American danger.

Western sources said in this regard that Sudan had played an important role in narrowing the differences between the two countries. Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, sent a senior Sudanese official to Baghdad and Tehran to overcome the obstacles in the way of establishing a strategic alliance against the United States, which could subsequently also include Khartoum. The sources said that the Sudanese delegation succeeded in its efforts after detecting that Iran and Iraq were both worried that the United States was determined to pursue its "dual containment" policy to isolate them. They felt that the more peace in the Middle East became a reality, the more this danger increases, as Washington can devote its time to carry out its plans against Baghdad and Tehran. This would be

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especially true if Syria reaches a peace agreement with Israel and splits with Iran.

The Western diplomat says that according to his information, Iraq and Iran have already accepted the principle of a strategic alliance between them. Coordination between the two countries is proceeding quickly in this direction. It is likely that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati will soon arrive in Baghdad, confirming that the first stage has been successful and indicating that they have raised the level of negotiations.

He says: "The stage of security and intelligence coordination, whose fruits we are witnessing, shows that the normalization efforts between the two countries have already gone beyond the stage of confidence-building and intention-testing. This security cooperation, which became clear in the Abu-Gharib incidents (AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, edition No. 955) and was confirmed further in the new position the two countries have adopted toward the opposition forces on their territories, could be regarded as a very advanced stage in the confidence-building and intention-testing process.

Security reports confirm that Tehran and Baghdad have finally resolved the question of harboring each other's opposition. They concluded a deal regarding the fate of the MKO in Iraq and the Iraqi opposition in Iran. The results of the deal, which have so far become clear, is just the tip of the iceberg. Iran has expelled many Shiite opposition members and restricted the movements and activity of the leaders of the opposition groups and their armed wings, such as the Badr 9 Corps. It removed this military wing from the Iraqi border and dispersed it in several areas inside the country. The Iranians also closed the Iraqi refugees' camp near the border, and moved the refugees to a place inside the country.

On the Iraqi side, the Ashraf Camp attack and the Baghdad operation were just the first signs of a bloodier and more significant part of this deal. According to reports received by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI from reliable sources, Tehran and Baghdad have reached a comprehensive deal in preparation for the normalization of the relations and the strategic alliance. The opposition's containment is a first payment on account and an initial deposit for what will happen.

According to these reports, Baghdad, which has rejected several Iranian requests in the past to expel MKO leader Mas'ud Rajavi and close his camps, has given the green light and indicated its readiness to give up this very important card. Although following 'Ali Khoram's visit to Baghdad, Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz hastened to meet with Rajavi to reassure him and publicly stated that "Baghdad does not surrender its guests," apparently referring to an Iranian request in this regard, observers took note then of another remark by 'Aziz in which he advised Tehran to "find another solution."

The "other solution" was exactly what happened last week in the Iranian armed attacks and assassinations against the MKO inside Iraq, within the framework of a prior agreement with the Iraqi regime.

According to initial reports received by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, an agreement was recently reached between two senior Iranian and Iraqi intelligence officers in Baghdad, a few days before the start of the assassination campaign against MKO members. The agreement included a deal considered the biggest and the most serious and credible of its kind in the history of the attempts for a rapprochement and bargaining between Baghdad and Tehran. The deal, which has received the approval of Saddam Husayn and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, called for sacrificing the opposition members in each country, particularly their leaders, Mas'ud Rajavi in Iraq and Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], in Iran. The deal includes other important provisions to promote security cooperation and rapprochement between the two countries.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that Baghdad this time agreed to go further in meeting Iran's main demand: the head of Mas'ud Rajavi. It is known that this demand has always been the reason that caused past efforts to normalize the relations between the two countries to fail, particularly since 1990. In September of that year, Iran responded to Saddam Husayn's offer to conclude a peace agreement with it to end his isolation and break the international blockade by asking for the extradition of Rajavi and all his supporters in Iraq. The Iraqi regime was then under heavy pressure from the Western coalition. Saddam Husayn agreed to extradite Rajavi and 100 of his followers. The deal, however, did not go through because the two countries lacked mutual confidence and were wagering on a rapprochement with Washington and not with their former enemy. All subsequent attempts failed for the same reasons, but the realization of Iraq and Iran that they are facing a common dangerous fate because of the "dual containment" strategy led them to conclude the new deal. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI's information confirms that Baghdad and Tehran have agreed this time to "eliminate the opposition" simultaneously in Iraq and Iran. Each side apparently sought to maintain each others dignity by not exchanging the extradition of Rajavi and Baqir al-Hakim. They would expel them from Iraq and Iran or "find another solution for each one" acceptable to the two countries. Thus, Baghdad has given its approval for a wide-scale operation to eliminate and assassinate mem-

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bers of the MKO in Iraq. Last week's operation was just the beginning. At the same time, Baghdad undertook to close the MKO's camps in Iraq, and has, indeed, begun asking the organization to return the tanks and rockets it gave to the Iranian National Liberation Army, the MKO's military wing. A few weeks earlier, the Iraqi security services started advising and threatening Rajavi's group to leave Iraq and find another refuge. Iraqi security forces stepped up their guard of the border with Jordan to prevent MKO's members from returning to Iraq. Despite Baghdad's apparent indignation regarding the actions of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and agents of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad and their military operations against Rajavi's camps and supporters, observers emphasize that this Iraqi reaction was part of the scenario and will not lead to any escalation by Tehran. Baghdad will use the assassinations and attacks as an excuse to face Rajavi with the bitter fact and to tell him: "We have an extremely sensitive internal situation that makes it difficult for us to protect you. So, you must find another place to avoid subservience." According to this scenario, observers expect "the Iranian-Iraqi" assassination operations against the MKO members to escalate to the point where an attempt would be made to assassinate Rajavi in Baghdad or attack his headquarters with rockets. The Iraqi regime would then find itself "forced" to abandon this "annoying guest" and ask him to leave the country and go any place he wants.

A few weeks ago, Rajavi, in fact, received Iraqi "brotherly advice" to leave. He sent two envoys to several European countries to examine the possibility of political asylum; that is, a return to the situation that existed before 1986 when he was a political refugee in France before he was expelled to Iraq. However, it seems that the situation is complicated this time. When she visited Europe recently, his wife, Maryam Rajavi, discovered that Europe's doors are closed to her husband. She discovered that the Iranian authorities and intelligence services have already contacted the European countries and told them of the risks involved in granting asylum to the MKO leader, who is facing not only expulsion from Iraq, but also an Iranian death sentence.

Meanwhile, Iran has continued to implement the normalization measures by restricting the activity of Iraqi opposition members and their movements and removing them from the Iraqi border. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim apparently is facing the same situation as Rajavi. The Iranians have explicitly told him to leave the country. While Iranian sources say that Tehran has asked the Hizballah command to receive al-Hakim in Lebanon, SAIRI sources indicated that he might finally settle in Damascus, as he is no longer wanted in Iran and the future of his camps and supporters is in jeopardy.

However, the Iranian-Iraqi deal goes beyond a reciprocal expulsion of the leaders of the two opposition movements. Informed sources say that Saddam Husayn took advantage of the fact that, this time, Iran was pressing for negotiations, normalization, and alliance and asked for a higher price for Rajavi's head. The sources say that the deal concluded between the two countries was comprehensive, involving all aspects of cooperation. It seems that Tehran has promised to extend other assistance to the Iraqi regime beyond rescuing it from the Iraqi Shiite opposition in Iran. The Iranians promised to help Baghdad get rid of all the Iraqi opposition.

In this regard, the Iranians have provided information about the Iraqi opposition's penetration of the armed forces and the intelligence service. They tried to dissolve the Iraqi National Congress, which is the biggest umbrella of the Iraqi opposition organizations. The reports affirm that Tehran is playing an important role in the rifts taking place in the congress and in fanning the differences between its groups and organizations on the pretext that it has done nothing against the Iraqi regime. Tehran reportedly also undertook to dissolve the congress and prevent the establishment of a more effective substitute body. Regarding the Kurdish opposition, informed sources say that the Iraqi-Iranian deal contains an Iranian commitment to create problems between the Kurds and prevent the achievement of any agreement between them. By fanning the war between the Kurdish supporters of Talabani and Barazani, Iran will not only speed up the dismantling of the Iraqi National Congress but also remove this danger from Iraq and Iran. Some sources say that in offering inducements for the alliance with Iraq, the Iranians went as far as placing their foreign intelligence at the service of their new ally. Tehran promised to extend the security cooperation and coordination to the foreign field. Iranian intelligence agents, who possess important bases and extensive resources in the European capitals, would pursue Iraqi opposition leaders and assassinate them for Iraq.

The Western diplomat says that the Iranian-Iraqi deal extends beyond cooperation in pursuing the opposition and controlling the domestic situation in Iraq, the situation in the north and south, and the situation on the border with Iran. It involves a strategic alliance to confront the "dual containment" policy and the adoption of common positions on Gulf and Middle Eastern issues to strengthen the positions of the Baghdad and Tehran regimes. However, the diplomat says it is still too early to judge the prospects of this alliance. Serious discussions will begin soon with the start of higher level meetings and negotiations between the two

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countries. Therefore, one must wait for the results of Velayati's anticipated visit to Baghdad and perhaps also a summit meeting between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Saddam Husayn.

Poisoned Opposition Activists Hospitalized in Iran

LD0609175195 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Sept. 6, IRNA — Six prominent activists opposed to the Iraqi regime are receiving urgent medical attention in a Tehran hospital after being secretly poisoned in Iraqi Kurdistan, it has been revealed here.

All the victims are in a serious condition, while another is said by the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) to have already died after being administered thallium, commonly used to kill rats, more than three weeks ago.

Agents from Saddam Husayn's regime were being held responsible for trying to kill the activists, who are linked to INC constituent groups, the Supreme Council [Assembly] of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Thallium is reported to have been regularly slipped into beverages by Iraqi agents against opponents, the most recent being the poisoning in January of Kurdish tribal leader, Faysal al-Sha'alan and opposition radio announcer 'Abd-al-Amir Shahin, who subsequently died.

The INC office in London said that after it was discovered that the six victims had been poisoned, an Iraqi doctor in Irbil immediately left last Monday with an antidote, known as 'Prussian blue.' The heavy metal rat poison is known to have a slow-acting but fatal effect on humans.

U-2 Plane 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0809130395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 8 Sep (INA)—Iraq has strongly denounced the U-2 plane's continued violations of its airspace which encroach on its sovereignty and security.

A letter sent by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, delivered by Iraq's Permanent Representative Nizar Hamdun, says: This plane takes off from a base in Saudi territory and is used for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council.

The letter says that the plane committed five new violations of Iraqi airspace in August 1995. During its overflights in the aforesaid month, this plane flew over large areas in Iraq, with a flight time totalling 21 hours 44 minutes, under the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

The letter points out that these five new violations raised the number of violations committed by this plane to 264.

The letter adds: We condemn and denounce these unwarranted violations of Iraqi airspace. We underline Iraq's constant view that this plane is being used for purposes other than those sanctioned by the UN Security Council, and that its activities undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security. We also reiterate the request Iraq has constantly made that Iraqi rather than foreign aircraft be used by the UN Special Commission to rule out the possible use of foreign aircraft to achieve purposes that undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security. On this basis, the United Nations should reconsider the use of this spy plane, because the continued use of this plane contravenes the objectives and principles enshrined in the UN Charter with regard to respecting the sovereignty of all United Nations members and according them equal treatment.

Saddam Cables Qatari Amir on National Day

JN0309084795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0823 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, on the occasion of his country's national day. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar

On the occasion of the national day of the sisterly state of Qatar, I am pleased to send to your highness, in the name of Iraq and in my name, best wishes and true brotherly sentiments, wishing you continuous health and happiness and the people of sisterly Qatar more progress and prosperity. I also wish the existing relations of brotherhood between our fraternal countries and peoples continuous development and growth.

Ramadan Receives Turkish Welfare Party Deputy Leader

JN0609185995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has stressed that Iraq is eager to enhance friendship and promote cooperation with Turkey in all fields to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

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At his meeting today with (Shawkat Qazan), Turkish Welfare Party deputy leader, Ramadan said that the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people has greatly harmed the economies of the Iraqi and Turkish people as a result of the intransigence of the U.S. Administration and its unrelenting pressure on the UN Security Council to maintain the embargo on Iraq.

The vice president stressed the need to withdraw the alliance forces, which are hostile to Iraq, from their bases in Turkish territories. He also stressed that the alliance forces, under flimsy excuses, have largely contributed to instability and the lack of security in northern Iraq.

Qazan, who is participating in the seventh World Popular Islamic Conference currently convening in Baghdad, denounced the crime of the perpetuation of the unjust embargo on the Iraqi people.

Ramadan Receives Chinese Workers' Delegation

JN0609175595 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 6, INA—Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan received the delegation of Chinese trade union headed by the deputy chairman of the union on Wednesday [6 September].

During the interview, the vice-president commended the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the wide horizons of developing them in the interest of the two countries' peoples.

Mr. Ramadan said that exchange of visiting and direct meetings between the delegates of the two countries participate in developing and enhancing relations in different fields. He stressed that Iraqi leadership and its brave people will foil all the conspiracies created by the U.S Administration against Iraq's security, sovereignty and national unity.

He pointed out that peoples who have long history and deep civilization like the Iraqi and Chinese ones do not accept exploitation and hegemony on its capabilities and wealth.

He commended the humanitarian stands of the Chinese government and its people towards Iraq and their support to lift the five-year anti-Iraq embargo.

National Assembly's Legal Committee To Meet 9 Sep

JN0709200195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Unscheduled announcement]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly's Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee has issued the following statement:

It has been decided to hold a meeting of the National Assembly's Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee at 0900 [0500 GMT] on Saturday 9 September 1995.

All committee members should attend on the set date.

[Signed] The head of the National Assembly's Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee

Saddam's Wife Briefed on Embargo Impact on Women

JN0809081395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—Mrs. Sajidah Khayrallah, wife of President Saddam Husayn, has received Mrs. Manal Yunus, president of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, and members of the Federation's Executive Office.

Mrs. Sajidah Khayrallah was briefed on the Federation's activities and programs to develop the activities of women to help lessen the burden of the embargo on Iraqi women. [passage omitted]

Impact of Sanctions on Children Detailed

95LH0230A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 3

[Interview With Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Humaymidi, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Division, by Hayah 'Abd 'Ali; place and date not given: "AL-'UBUR Opens Dossier of International Treaty on Children's Rights; Chief of Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Division Reveals Consequences of Blockade on Our Children in Figures" — first paragraph is AL-JUMHURIYAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN treaty on children's rights was concluded in 1989. Its provisions and articles call for ensuring the health, educational, cultural, psychological, social, and even economic rights of the world's children. The United Nations has appealed to the parties to this treaty to work seriously and cooperatively to implement its provisions. The United Nations has urged the signatory countries to submit periodic reports on what they have accomplished and what they

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will accomplish in the area of children's rights. Where does the treaty stand on the hardship of Iraq's children and how effective are its provisions vis-a-vis the violations to which their rights are subjected? AL-'UBUR has interviewed Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Humaymidi, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Division, to find out the truth from him with the language of official figures and statistics.

['Ali] Don't you find a paradox between the provisions and articles of the children's rights treaty and the real conditions under which Iraq's children live?

[Humaymidi] No doubt. The paradox is in the numerous articles which the treaty contains to ensure children's rights and the resolutions issued against Iraq, imposing the ban and the blockade on it. Even though the blockade has excluded drugs and foodstuffs, the exclusion has practically had no noteworthy significance because Iraq has been denied the opportunities to secure financial resources in the wake of the ban on its oil exports and of the freezing of its assets abroad. What is more, Iraq has been prevented from importing medical laboratory supplies, pharmaceuticals, and various drugs which it had already contracted and for which it had paid in hard currency prior to 2 August 1990. All this has prevented Iraq from ensuring the Iraqi child's rights as stipulated in the treaty.

['Ali] Through the reports that you receive from official and unofficial circles, do you find that these circles can ensure even a simple part of what is stipulated in the children's rights treaty?

[Humaymidi] All the reports we have received complain of the burden of the blockade, especially on children. There is no doubt that consequences of the hardship children suffer today will extend to the future, which could lead to paralyzing and destroying society.

['Ali] Can you demonstrate to us in figures the dimensions of the consequences emanating from the blockade to children's health and living conditions, compared to the conditions existing prior to the blockade?

[Humaymidi] According to Health Ministry and UNICEF reports, we had 96 deaths because of diarrhea in November 1989. In November 1994, there were 1,270 deaths among the same population segment. Deaths from pneumonia in November 1989 amounted to 110, rising to 1,551 deaths in November 1994.

A total of 52 children died of malnutrition in November 1989, rising to 1,741 children in November 1994. Following is a list of deaths in children under five caused by various reasons connected with the blockade:

Year	Number of Deaths
1989	7,110
1990	8,902
1991	27,473
1992	46,933
1993	49,762
1994	38,844

All this happens at a time when Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the treaty states that "member countries acknowledge that every child has an inalienable right to life" and when Paragraph 2 of Article 24 requires the member countries to take the appropriate steps to "reduce mortality rates among infants and children."

['Ali] The treaty says in part that "member countries should submit reports that demonstrate the extent of treaty implementation two years after they ratify the treaty and are accepted as its members." Considering that Iraq joined the treaty on 4 March 1994, it has nearly a year to submit its report. Should we wait until the year lapses or is there another way?

[Humaymidi] We have not waited for the date to submit the report. We submitted to the 51st session of the Human Rights Commission, which convened in Geneva from 31 January to 10 March 1995, a detailed report on the blockade's consequences on Iraq's children in light of the children's rights treaty. The report was adopted as one of the session's official documents.

['Ali] How cooperative have the parties concerned been in submitting their reports to you, and in your opinion, how accurate, objective, and frank have the reports been?

[Humaymidi] We approach the numerous parties concerned, including the ministries of health, education, higher education, justice, labor and social affairs, the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, the women's, students, and youth federations, and many others, and ask them to supply us with the statistics and information at their disposal according to the work mechanism and to the broad lines which we receive from the international commission concerned with following up on children's rights. We have received cooperation from all these parties. We urge them to continue this cooperation and to work in an accurate scientific manner so we can produce Iraq's report as it should be produced.

['Ali] In preparing your report, do you take advantage of field research, scientific studies, materials published by the press and the media, and information available

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at offices of the international and regional organizations found in Baghdad, such as the UNICEF and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization?

[Humaymidi] We certainly take advantage of all that you have mentioned. For example, our report to the 51st session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva included the outcome of a field study conducted by two faculty members of al-Mustansiriyah University and sponsored by the Iraqi Childhood Support Association. This study pointed out that the blockade's psychological, social, and educational consequences on Iraq's children are no less damaging than the physical consequences suffered by the children. The study used a sample of 2,000 male and female children from 50 schools in Baghdad. It lasted one year and made very accurate and objective scientific conclusions that were included in the report. The conclusions noted, for example, a heightened feeling of fear and anxiety; an increased desire to acquire and possess material things; greater excitability and quicker anger; increased cases of lying among children; increased cases of aggressive behavior; greater social isolation and introversion; a growing phenomenon of prolonged sleep; greater loss of self-confidence; greater difficulty among children in concentrating; and a shortened attention span.

In all these cases, we have percentages to compare conditions prior to the blockade with current conditions. The increase has amounted to 50 percent, and even more at times.

['Ali] Can you acquaint us with the UN human rights treaties and agreements of which Iraq is a member?

[Humaymidi] Iraq is a member of:

1. The 1948 UN treaty on genocide

2. The 1965 UN treaty on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

3. The 1966 UN treaty on civil and political rights
4. The 1966 UN treaty on economic, social, and cultural rights
5. The 1960 UNESCO accord on fighting educational discrimination
6. The 1958 international labor treaty to fight discrimination in the employment field
7. The 1973 UN treaty on prohibiting and punishing the crime of apartheid
8. The 1989 UN children's rights treaty

Military College Said Camp for 'Theoretical Studies'

NC0709165295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: We conclude our newscast with the following statement of clarification:

In its newscasts last night and this morning the radio of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan] said the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] had set up a training camp for its armed men near the village of Sitak in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

The Military College would like to inform everybody that the camp does not belong to any group or faction, but belongs to the Military College. It is a camp for overall training, that is, for theoretical studies [faradiyat] for students attending the second course at the Military College. It was established on 2 September and will continue until 12 September. The door is open to anyone and every side to visit the camp and see it firsthand. With our appreciation to all.

[Signed] The Military College

[Dated] 7 September 1995

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U.S.-Run Early Warning Stations in Golan Discussed

TA0809101795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 pp 1, 22

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. officials have raised with Israel the feasibility of using various technical methods to enable Israel to obtain real-time intelligence data from a U.S.-manned ground-based early-warning station in the Golan, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned from Washington sources.

The sources said the U.S. interest in this issue stems from its potential to reconcile two conflicting factors: Israel's need for Golan ground-warning station data — and not just aerial surveillance — to prevent Syrian surprise attacks, and Syrian demands that there be no Israeli presence on the Golan.

The issue is particularly acute for Israel, which wants to obtain intelligence data in real-time automatically, without being dependent upon the U.S. to deliver such data at its leisure. During the Gulf War, Israel was prevented from retaliating against Scud missile attacks because the U.S. did not hand-deliver such data.

It must be noted the U.S. has not taken a formal position on the sensitive early-warning issue, even though officials believe automatically transferring data is technically feasible.

During the last round of negotiations, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen Amnon Shahaq told his Syrian counterpart Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi that Israel wants to retain Golan early-warning capability.

The early-warning issue has recently become crucial, since Syria has linked the resumption of negotiations between military officers of both sides to Israel dropping its demand for early-warning capability.

The scenario being envisioned would have U.S. personnel manning the Golan early-warning station, but transferring data to Israel, either to a nearby hilltop inside Israel's new borders, or to military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The transfer of data from one ground station to the next could be accomplished by a variety of means, including Israel directing automated cameras from afar by use of fiber-optic cables. Israel would also obtain a variety of non-visual data by wireless radio communication, signals bounced off satellite dishes, and use of tethered balloons. "All these seem very feasible when it comes to the Golan," a Washington-based U.S. official said.

In meetings with U.S. officials, Syria raised the idea of Israel using tethered balloons containing electronic sensors, which the IDF has experience with. However, Israel has made it known that this is insufficient.

The transfer of data from the ground-based station would only be one component of an overall peace monitoring package, said Ben FitzGerald, senior associate of the Washington-based security consulting firm C&O Resources, who headed the U.S. Golan and Sinai peace monitoring operations in the 1970s.

"There is absolutely no doubt that transferring is feasible and it is relatively simple. Ground stations are one part of a whole litany that could be involved. There would also be ground sensors, overflight drones, and satellite reconnaissance. Both sides would have access to the information, so there would be confidence- building," he said.

When asked if he believed Israel could rely on the U.S. to be a reliable party to man the Golan stations for many years despite budget cuts, FitzGerald replied "we footed the bill in Sinai. The American people realized that this is a long-term interest of the U.S. to maintain peace, and the price for monitoring such peace by all these means is peanuts. The American people know this."

However, sources in Israel note that the issue of early-warning cannot be seen in isolation during the negotiations, as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad seems intent upon doing.

Dore Gold, who has written a study for the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies opposing Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, believes Israel cannot transfer Golan early warning to a third party.

He said, "Early warning is the most sensitive element in the national decision making of any future Israeli government. It is doubtful that any decision maker would want to have that sort of capability outside of Israel's direct military control. If anything goes wrong, you are in trouble."

Peace With Syria Seen as Electoral Asset to Clinton

TA0709155895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Sep 95 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "Taking the Reins From Rabin"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Since the day U.S. President Bill Clinton (officially) placed it at the top of his international agenda, active involvement in the peace process has never been as crucial as it is today. This is not just a question of timing (an important

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factor in its own right in view of Yitzhaq Rabin's political limitations in an election year). Artificial dates set by politicians come and go (for some reason their "crucial years" usually fall on such "rounded off" dates as "the end of 1994," and now "the end of 1995"). If al-Asad and Rabin agree to pay the price for a reasonable compromise, Clinton will be only too happy to play the role of Kissinger, the acrobat of peace, in an election year.

Clinton's involvement is necessary today because he is the only one who can get Rabin and al-Asad to stop digging in their heels, as they have been doing in recent months. Al-Asad wants to resume the ambassador talks and "then see," while Rabin sees Itamar Rabinovich and the military experts as one package. A senior U.S. official told me that he is sure the Syrians would like to move forward, but there is a gap between what they propose, Rabin's demands, and al- Asad's commitment (the officers' talks). Moreover, both sides fear that displaying a sense of urgency will be perceived as eagerness by the other side and will immediately be used to raise the stakes.

There is no doubt that if he were asked to return to Washington to reactivate the Rabinovich-al-Mu'allim channel Dennis Ross would gladly cut short his summer holiday in Israel. The ambassadors have obviously become the conduit for al-Asad's return to the negotiating table. "We must find the right approach, since we are mainly dealing with the psychology of the conflict," the same official cautiously noted. In other words, the Americans are once again trying to decipher Rabin's innermost thoughts: Does he really want peace with Syria now or would he rather get through the implementation of Oslo B in the West Bank without drawing fire over the Golan Heights? They do not understand that the answer to the question is in Washington, not Jerusalem.

Rabin's behavior prior to the Oslo agreement, and to a certain extent on the Jordanian track, should have made the U.S. brokers realize that Rabin is not one to be given "free rein." They can ask Shim'on Peres and Yosi Beilin. In the next few months Clinton will meet the prime minister twice. He can either let Rabin go on agonizing and wait endlessly for his go ahead, or present his Israeli guest with a new agenda for negotiations with Syria. He had better wrap his plan in an appealing "security package" and some creative ideas about securing the water sources.

Were I an American voter I would be very offended if my President thought it took only a series of ceremonies in the Rose Garden and a speech about the importance of "comprehensive peace" to improve my opinion of his ability as a world leader. In its current state, the peace process might play a role ranging from secondary (among the public at large) to negative (within the Jewish community) in the presidential election campaign. Only a Pax Americana between Israel and Syria which would isolate Iran and its lackeys in Lebanon would give Clinton international credit and turn the Middle East into a real electoral asset.

Syrian Motives for Freeze in Talks Viewed

TA0509152195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 5 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Is al-Asad Waiting for the Likud?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad says he is not optimistic about the frozen Syrian-Israeli peace process, and blames Israel for it. He is not the only one. Yitzhaq Rabin is no less pessimistic and has even said as much, as have others in the country's leadership and in the team negotiating with Syria.

It seems Rabin and his government despair over the chances to reach some kind of agreement with al-Asad during their tenure. Perhaps they have even come to the conclusion that reaching such an agreement now is not so good since they are no longer as sure as before that it will help them win the elections.

On the contrary, in view of the broad public opposition to a withdrawal from the Golan, they have reason to fear that an agreement with al-Asad — which will not come to pass unless it includes an Israeli commitment to descend from the Golan — will hand a defeat in the elections to whoever signs it. They have enough with the agreement with the Palestinians, which has aroused serious disputes and fears, whose implementation will either help this government survive the elections or bring its downfall.

This does not mean that al-Asad is right in blaming Israel for the freeze in the talks. Had he not adjourned them, the talks would have continued and the Israeli Government would not have thought of freezing them because of the elections. The truth is that the impasse stems from a lack of understanding of each other's mentality and the considerations of the Syrian president, who may have made a strategic decision to go for peace but is not yet able to go all the way.

President al-Asad knows very well that the Likud stands quite a good chance of rising to power next year. If he is in no rush, then either the psychological barrier is still too high and he has not yet finished preparing his people for full peace with Israel, or else, based on the Egyptian precedent, he believes he will be able to get from the Likud at least what the Labor government is prepared to give him.

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Signing Ceremony With Palestinians Downplayed

TA0809101895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Hillel Kuttler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has had no discussions with the Clinton administration on the details of the proposed signing ceremony here for the interim autonomy accord, an Israeli official said yesterday.

Israel is downgrading the signing, with the official calling it not "a ceremony but an event."

"It's not a celebration but it is substantively connected to the negotiations," he told reporters.

There are no plans to change the Middle East visit of Japanese officials scheduled for September 17-18 because it appears unlikely that the September 18 target date for the signing will be met, he added.

On the Syrian front, the official said Israel has no intention of pursuing negotiations with Damascus as long as President Hafiz al- Asad refuses to resume military-level talks.

"We think it's important to reach an agreement with Syria but we're not anxious or rushing to do it," he said.

The official also said he is concerned by the trend among American-Jewish opponents of the peace process of "delegitimizing the Israeli government."

To deal with that opposition, the government's approach is "to respond to the questions and maintain a dialogue with those opponents who are prepared to be civil."

'Arafat Tape Urging 'Savage Battle' Released

TA0809104495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p 3

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Institute for Peace Education yesterday exposed another videotape of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat telling his people to continue the "savage battle" until they can pray in Jerusalem.

The tape was released at a press conference the group held in Jerusalem yesterday with Likud MK [Knesset member] Ze'ev Begin and Labor MK 'Imanu'el Zismann.

Some of the videotape was taped from Palestinian Television broadcasts in the Gaza Strip; others were taped by individuals.

"We have a tough, long and savage battle ahead of us, one of the most difficult of battles. I call upon you not to abandon the mountain until we arrive in Jerusalem for prayers."

'Arafat's speech was translated by Yig'al Karmon, former terrorism adviser to Prime Ministers Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin. Karmon has been active in the institute for some months.

Karmon said 'Arafat's speech indicated that he was not seeking peace. "His rhetoric is designed to bring him closer to his audience. Thus he prefers to use quotes and references from the Islamic tradition and from the Koran. But the meaning is clear."

This is particularly apparent, Karmon said, in a speech 'Arafat gave at al-Azhar University in Gaza City. In that speech, 'Arafat says, "We must not come down from the mountain... this is important... So we don't repeat the battle of Uhud. We still need people to stay at the mountaintop."

'Arafat was referring to the battle in which Moslems fought against an army of infidels, Karmon explained. At one point, the Moslems decided to stop the fighting and one of the infidels, Khalid Ibn-al-Walid, used the opportunity to kill all the Moslems. 'Arafat was essentially demanding that the struggle against Israel should not be halted, and the Palestinians should not call off the battle as they did at Uhud, Karmon said.

The video played yesterday also included a section screened on ITV [Israeli Television] last week, in which 'Arafat said: "The Palestinian people is willing to sacrifice its last boy and girl so that the Palestinian flag will fly over the churches and mosques of Jerusalem."

Begin and Zismann said the tape proved beyond a doubt that 'Arafat is not interested in peace with Israel. "There are some partners about whom nothing can be done, no matter what agreement you sign. Such partners will not honor agreements," said Begin.

"I hope that Mr. Peres is negotiating today on the assumption that 'Arafat's hands are unclean," Zismann said.

Sarid: Evacuation of Hebron Jews Not Discussed in Taba

TA0709182695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid says Israel will not remove Jewish settlers from Hebron and the idea is not being negotiated in the Taba talks.

Sarid today signed an environmental cooperation agreement in al-'Aqabah with his Jordanian counterpart,

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Nadir al-Zuhayrat. In an interview with Yishay Eldar, Sarid first discussed the issue of Hebron:

[Begin recording] [Sarid] Personally, I oppose the very existence of a Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron and I don't have any reason to regret my private position. But, reality is reality, and we are facing now the reality and there is a Jewish settlement in Hebron. According to the DOP [Declaration of Principles] and according to our additional agreements with the Palestinians, at the present moment — that is to say, in the interim agreement — no Jewish settlement will be uprooted or dismantled. That is to say, that this rule includes the Jewish settlement in Hebron. So, since we don't have any other choice, we have to ensure the security of this particular place, and that's what we are intending to do.

[Eldar] Do you see this as a temporary measure or do you see Jews remaining there forever?

[Sarid] I can't tell you now. As far as I am concerned, when we'll start to negotiate the final status of the occupied territories, I believe it will be better for the settlers, better for the Palestinians, better for the soldiers and officers, and better for the Israeli national security that the settlers will not be there. But since the negotiations about the final status of the occupied territories will start in a year and they will proceed at least three years, so we are talking about the future and nobody can tell what the outcome will be.

[Eldar] But you say that uprooting the Jews from Hebron is not being negotiated in the present Taba talks?

[Sarid] That's correct. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Jewish Underground' Said To Plan Orient House Takeover

TA0709195395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 September carries a two-minute video report by Mikha Limor on "a group calling itself the New Jewish Underground." Introducing the report, the announcer notes that "the footage, which was filmed in an abandoned building in Hebron, was sent in by a private photographer, who wished to remain anonymous, to the Channel 2 team of the program 'Hasifa' [Exposure]. The following is an excerpt from the footage on the group's training. The recording was made by an amateur camera, and the defects are as received."

The studio introduction is followed by a recording in which an unnamed man says: "The evacuation of Jews from Hebron is not a minor matter, and we will have to be prepared. We have a liaison person in Hebron, who will inform us. We will not wait for the media. He lives there, he knows the people, he knows what goes on, and he will use a cellular phone — because they will probably disconnect telephones or do something like that — to contact a liaison in Jerusalem, using a secret code I will not reveal here, who will contact the eight people with whom we are constantly in touch, and with whom we practice break-in techniques." The man proceeds to enumerate the means at their disposal, such as "barbed wire pieces to be scattered on the road," and "fragmentation grenades." He adds: "Not all the equipment is in one place. It is scattered, and everyone knows how to access it. The ultimate move will be breaking into Orient House."

Limor notes that the footage was filmed inside an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] facility, and that "according to the group members, most of them are religious people, officers, and combat soldiers in the reserves." Referring to the group's plan to break into Orient House, he says: "Judging by the evidence we have received, they seem to be seriously planning and are able to carry it out."

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Advisory Against Bus Travel

TA0809131995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p 7

[Commentary by Gerald Steinberg, director of research on national security at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University: "Absurd, and Ironic Too"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the recent terrorist attack in Jerusalem, the US government issued an "advisory" to American citizens, urging them to stay off Israeli buses. The US routinely issues such warnings regarding the dangers of war and terrorism for countries such as Pakistan, Lebanon, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Russia, and similar statements have been made in the past with respect to Israel.

In this sense, the State Department serves as the equivalent of a global weather forecaster, issuing broad and seemingly objective judgments about dangers from terrorism and violence.

In this case, however, the pronouncement struck me as particularly absurd. In the first place, there is a bitter irony in the fact that American governments, including the current administration, have pushed so hard for the measures that have made Israeli cities increasingly vulnerable to Palestinian terror. American pressure on Israeli governments contributed to the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and Palestinian autonomy under 'Arafat and the PLO.

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As a result, Israel lost intelligence and control in these areas, making it easier for terrorists to obtain explosives and use them. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and intelligence analysts warn that further withdrawals will only increase the dangers.

American government officials have also pressured Israel to continue to allow Palestinians from beyond the Green Line to work in Israel, thereby increasing the access of terrorists to Israeli buses and other targets.

While the Israeli government is ultimately responsible for these policies, Washington cannot pretend to be an uninvolved observer. If Israel has become a more dangerous place, in part because of American policies and perceptions, then perhaps the State Department should reconsider its own policies, and the fundamental assumptions about Palestinian society and terror.

If they were honest, the authors of these official pronouncements would write, "After the Israeli government took our advice, the dangers of terrorism on buses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has increased."

For Israelis returning from the US, the irony in the American warning about the dangers of Israeli buses was even more apparent. The US issues advisories about many other countries but the greatest danger of violence and random terror is in America itself.

Many cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, are so dangerous that visitors cannot leave their hotels at night. Drugs, theft, and thrill killings plague American cities, and are far more dangerous than riding Israeli buses.

In California and Florida, driving on a freeway can also be a life-threatening experience. Americans are armed to the teeth, and arguments over the right of way at an intersection can become a deadly exchange. The fear of "car-jackings" and other forms of random violence is pervasive, and Americans are afraid to drive their cars.

In Florida, a number of foreign tourists have been robbed and killed in the past few years. With so many Israelis visiting (and staying in) the US, perhaps it is time for the Foreign Ministry to issue a traveler's advisory for this dangerous part of the world.

The climate of fear and violence does not end in the big cities or freeways. Pictures of kidnapped children adorn milk cartons, with rewards offered for information on the whereabouts of youngsters who disappeared five, 10, or, in some cases, even 15 years ago.

Tables in Southern California shopping malls offer information on how to place a microdot on children's teeth, to allow identification in the event of kidnapping. As a result, in American cities children are imprisoned, afraid to go anywhere on their own, and parents become full-time chauffeurs.

It is not just ironic — it is absurd — that the American government places so much emphasis on protecting its citizens from the threat of Islamic terrorists in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, overlooking the daily dose of violence at home.

It's time the American government altered its focus, and, instead of warning its citizens about the dangers of riding buses in Israel, began to look at the violence and killings at home. At the same time, officials in the State Department might consider their own contribution to increased terrorism in Israeli cities.

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King Husayn Discusses Iraq, Regional Issues

JN0709203695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 7 Sep

["Text" of interview with King Husayn by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in London on 6 September; published by London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic on 7 September — read by announcer; italicized passages do not appear in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT version]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Umayr] You are the best person to talk to Iraq because you had links with it over a long period of time. Could you convey a picture of it to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT?

[Husayn] The case of Iraq and the Iraqi people and their suffering is nothing new to us, not since I assumed responsibility. Iraq is a fraternal Arab country important to Jordan.

We supported Iraq in the [Iran-Iraq] war — which came as a surprise to us — over a period of eight years and we saw that as a defense of the Arab nation's eastern gate. We had high hopes that Iraq would be an element of strength in the region in the march toward integration, understanding, and building firm foundations for our Arab nation's present and future. On the political level we were naturally reassured at the Arab summit meetings that Iraq shared its brothers' position that it is impermissible to use Arab arms against Arabs and that if that were to happen the Arab nation would supposedly stand against it with all its capabilities even if it meant using force because, at this stage, even the smallest Arab state should have the same value and influence as any major fraternal Arab state, and we should consider ourselves one family in our great Arab homeland.

The invasion of Kuwait basically took us by surprise and I tried my utmost to do a part of my duty toward my nation with the aim of achieving a solution that would restore Kuwait's status and solve the problem by means which are supposed to apply between brothers, a solution within the Arab family. But events took another direction. Despite all that, our concern for one part of our great homeland is the same as our concern for every other part.

As regards Iraq in particular, I was and still am unhappy about the suffering of its people. I have said that on more than one occasion and over a long period of time. Iraq is important in the Arab region and I endeavor and hope that it will resume its role and that its people will live the life we wish them to have. If you go back to my statements in recent years, when asked what I wished for Iraq I always replied that I wished that its people would have democratic pluralism and enjoy human rights. I wished for national reconciliation and, naturally, that it would make a new start with all its brothers in the region in the interests of all.

The picture now is painful in that we have been hearing much about the suffering of our brothers and kinfolk there as a result of the foreign blockade and economic pressure on Iraq. As far as Jordan is concerned, it has been one of the gates always open as far as the supply of food and medicines was concerned, within the frameworks permitted by the United Nations.

Recently a picture became clear to me reflecting the depth of a different kind of suffering that seeks to deny the Iraqi human being many human rights, a suffering that affected me because of my concern for those people and my interest in saving them and seeing that they get what they are entitled to. That, naturally, occurred recently with the recent developments, as we heard from reliable sources. That came as a shock to me and added to my many pains making me feel that we must do the impossible and use all means to rescue Iraq and the Iraqi people.

[Al-'Umayr] Sir, let us talk about Husayn Kamil. Were there any prior contacts with him before he arrived in Jordan?

[Husayn] There were no contacts. The last time I met with Husayn Kamil was when he was on his way back from Moscow, before his latest arrival in Amman a few weeks ago. He was carrying a message from the Iraqi leadership at the time, urging that the impossible should be done to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and the blockade imposed against them. I asked him to convey another message, that, regrettably, we were never consulted on any issue and no questions were presented to us. We were always at the service of Iraq and at the service of our Arab brothers, and if Iraq's salvation was what was required then there must be openness and frankness. I believe that all the UN and Security Council resolutions must be implemented. That is the truth which everyone must bear in mind. Under these resolutions it is not sufficient to just eliminate the weapons of mass destruction, because there is a major influential power talking about other issues, especially one which I previously raised repeatedly with the Iraqi leadership without getting an answer. It concerns our Kuwaiti brothers and then the issue of human rights in the north and in the south. At any rate, these resolutions must be fully implemented, beginning with the matter of the weapons of mass destruction. Then it could be considered how Iraq could return to its region and its world, play its part in the region's future, and do what it has to do.

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Therefore, all the policies must be reconsidered and if they were willing to do that, then fine, and then we could discuss what we could do despite the fact that many mistakes were made and many actions produced negative results for Iraq. And I talked about the region, the world, and the peace process, how we regained our territory, water, and rights, and how we were building our country and how we wished Iraq would start again. That was the meeting and that was the last time we talked. Nothing else was discussed. When he arrived this last time and asked to meet with me I was surprised that the request did not come officially through the embassy but through an Arab brother from the hotel. So I received him, and the rest is known and I covered it in my speech.

[Al-'Umayr] So his arrival in Amman came as a surprise to Your Majesty?

[Husayn] Yes, I was surprised and I thought that he was carrying a message. It was very painful to me because I had known the man well. He was brilliant and young and had the responsibility of supplying the Iraqi forces with everything they needed in the most difficult circumstances. He gathered around him qualified, educated, and capable Iraqis and was able to do his duty in that field of providing Iraq's needs which had hitherto not been available. And there were his efforts to develop his country's scientific research, and he was responsible for forming the Republican Guard and the Special Guard. So he was known in the Armed Forces and he was defense minister and was entrusted with rebuilding the infrastructure after the troubles his country had been through. He was in a position where he knew everything and could have continued in that position except for what he said about the torment and suffering reaching the point of despair, after he talked and discussed matters in the circles where he could do so inside Iraq with the aim of reform but was unsuccessful. Then he came to us in Jordan and said, I am coming to my uncle with my own people. We said welcome. Naturally, his aim was only to draw attention to the real situation in Iraq which had reached the point of maximum severity for the Iraqi people as a result of the isolation abroad and the suffering at home.

[Al-'Umayr] When 'Udayy Saddam Husayn visited you, was he seeking reconciliation with Husayn Kamil or did he want to take him back?

[Husayn] He came with his uncle and, naturally, the discussion was about the possibility of us helping him to return on the grounds that perhaps there were health reasons for his departure, or minor family differences. We told them that he came in the manner I have described to you and that he was staying with his uncle, and that as regards the question of meeting him or meeting his family, that was up to them and if they wished to meet with them then that would be fine. I personally moved to pave the way for such a meeting but the answer was negative, they did not want the meeting. That was what happened. They are my guests and I look after them.

As regards the reason why I gave him the opportunity to speak out from my home, it was because of the criticism and charges made against him. I wanted it made clear that he was in my home and among his kinfolk and brothers and that if he had answers to the world's questions, he should give them. I was aware of his and his family's pain in relation to one of the most serious decisions made. He could have lived in calm stability and luxury in his country but he chose the difficult path, and things were said about him and he had a right to reply. He is a guest in my home.

[Al-'Umayr] Some claim that the two daughters of the Iraqi president were forced to accompany their husbands to Amman. Is that true?

[Husayn] Not at all. I am fully convinced, through my family, that they came knowingly and they knew that they were coming to Jordan with their husbands, and they were aware of the decision. They are amidst my family and they are welcome.

[Al-'Umayr] Sir, Your Majesty, there has been some talk about a government in exile. Are you in Jordan willing to host such a government?

[Husayn] Any such talk is now premature. I believe that the situation calls for inter-Arab understanding on the question of Iraq and the need to rescue the Iraqi people from the plight they are in. If we examine the picture more carefully we will find that Iraq consists of three main elements which in the past, before 1958, had a constitution which safeguarded their rights and provided controls for dealing with differences which might occur between them. Now it seems to me that efforts should be made for a meeting of representatives of the three elements in the framework of a national reconciliation that would chart the way to the future on the basis of rights and duties, a framework that would embrace these three main groups within the big Iraq to safeguard its unity, to emerge as soon as possible to save Iraq. The fear which grips any group, in relation to its brothers, is in my view one of the factors which led to the present situation.

There must be a new march and a new formula and there must be a new idea, and everyone's aim must be to rescue Iraq and its people from the situation they are in. Here, for the second, third, and 10th time I say that

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I have no personal ambition or motive except to do my duty toward those [Iraqi] people, and I would not accept, even if offered, a leadership position in Iraq. I will help those people with all my energy and capabilities. Thank God, I am known to be one who always acts according to the dictates of his conscience. That is what caused me much trouble in the past and much misunderstanding with my brothers. We are faced with a blockade imposed on those people and internal suffering, dangers which, if they continue, would threaten Arab unity and perhaps encourage parties around Iraq to exploit the situation to their advantage and at the expense of Iraq's territory and safety, and that constitutes a challenge to all of us Arab leaders and officials.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, do you consider what you said in that answer to be a Jordanian plan for Iraq's future offered to the Arab world?

[Husayn] These were observations to do with the reality. If you ask me, I am on the side of Iraq and the Iraqi people, there must be national reconciliation for all Iraqis, there must be political, ethnic, and creed pluralism in that country, and there must be a situation that would lead the building of Iraq onto a civilized and sound basis so that it would enjoy peace and stability, and peace, security, and stability must be preserved.

[Al-'Umayr] Your majesty, you have said that you are not prepared to shoulder the responsibility in Iraq. Would you support a member of the Hashemite family shouldering that responsibility, as rumored?

[Husayn] I have no concepts or thoughts. That is up to the Iraqis themselves. If they found that a particular regime served them in the past or that a certain leadership resolved their differences and achieved their unity, that is up to them.

[Al-'Umayr] People are talking about the Jordanian group inside Iraq, that is Jordanian influence on the Army or on political decisionmaking. How do you view that?

[Husayn] I wish to God that there might be such influence and that it would be nothing but positive influence in the service of Iraq and the Iraqi people. The more credibility Jordan has in Iraq, the more special its position becomes. Some people wonder if we have changed our position. That has been our position from the beginning toward those people and our endeavor at any one stage with every hope of succeeding in sparing the people by influencing their leadership through fraternal dialogue that would spare them all dangers to themselves and to the Arab nation. But our concern has been and continues to be that the people are threatened. What is important is that they should exercise their right to live.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, do you expect Jordan to play host to other leadership figures in Iraq?

[Husayn] I believe that the vast majority feel that it is their duty to stay and try to rectify the situation in Iraq for the better and from within. If we leave the door open the results would not be positive. The situation is unbearable, unbearable.

[Al-'Umayr] So you advise others to remain there, especially those who have different ideas?

[Husayn] I believe that the phrase "reform from within" is there, and first of all it is our duty at Arab level to transcend all the doubts and suspicions which prevailed between us and turn our attention to the service of rescuing Iraq.

[Al-'Umayr] Sir, why was Syria angry when you received Husayn Kamil?

[Husayn] I have no explanation. I have no interest, aim, or motive except that those people be saved. Many brothers may have other ambitions or aims. I do not know, but if our friend and brother had gone to another country, including Syria, would I be supposed to get angry? I really do not see a justification or a reason unless there are things we do not know that would justify anger because of a certain aim or purpose which we do not have.

[Al-'Umayr] But it has been claimed that you informed some Arab states of Husayn Kamil's asylum but not Syria. Is that true?

[Husayn] When Husayn Kamil arrived and talked to me and after I met him I only contacted the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd]. I did not contact anyone else. As time went by there were talks with others on the matter.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you interpret the Syrian position as being a result of the Husayn Kamil affair or does it emanate from Jordanian- Syrian relations in connection with the peace process?

[Husayn] Jordan and all its sons always hold their heads high. In our minds, our interest is paramount in all circumstances. We will never be subservient to anyone and will submit only to what we believe in. That gives us a clear conscience. It may not qualify us to play bigger roles. We do not believe in worship of individuals, God forbid. We only believe in our people. As regards the claim that we are a card in the hands of anyone, be it

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Western, Eastern, Arab, or foreigner, that is not true. We do not bargain with our dignity and rights.

[Al-'Umayr] You have talked about roles after Husayn Kamil's arrival and there was talk of the formation of new alliances in the region. How do you view that?

[Husayn] We have no aims and we are not seeking any alliance pertaining to any Arab grouping.

[Al-'Umayr] Are there any contacts with Syria at present?

[Husayn] There are contacts. They have not stopped.

[Al-'Umayr] Egypt has noticeably joined the controversy and has been displeased with what recently happened. Why is that?

[Husayn] By God, I have no explanation. It has been noticed more than once that our brothers in Egypt get angry and hurt when they are not in the picture of any event in the region where a decision is made. Perhaps they are entitled to make a brotherly remonstration without the matter going beyond that.

[Al-'Umayr] Did you think that the summit between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad was aimed against Jordan and its role?

[Husayn] Not at all, not at all. I did not think that.

[Al-'Umayr] *Some say that Jordan went too far in dealing with Israel.*

[Husayn] *In my opinion what should be said is that Jordan is trying to compensate for the time that has been lost, that if through this relationship, Jordan can give the Israeli people—in addition to the Government and others—the feeling that it is possible for us to coexist, then it will be a great service. Let us not forget that they have gone through very difficult circumstances, be it in Europe in the past or in the region, in a very specific region; that they have a complex, that their fear their surroundings affects them. If a just and honorable solution is found, I do not see any reason or justification why we should not have normal, ordinary relations which we will employ for the future and to give our people—in Jordan and the Arab world—all the opportunities that they were denied in the past so that we will develop and build and raise the standards of living and culture and so that their confidence in themselves will be strengthened. Only then will we become immune to fear and the situation will become normal. This is our approach on which we agree and implement.*

[Al-'Umayr] *What do you advise those who are very slow in relations with Israel?*

[Husayn] *We hope comprehensive peace will be established in the region. Why the delay? How can the suffering of the people in the region continue? Is it not our duty to continue this service until this suffering ends? With time, the Arab people will settle down, build, and regain their rights.*

[Al-'Umayr] *How would you view the situation in Israel if the Labor government was changed? How would your relations with Israel become? Would they change?*

[Husayn] *Concerning Jordanian-Israeli relations, these relations exist because there are no differences on this in the Israeli arena either. However, I do not know if changes occur. If these changes take place as a result of painful, sanguinary events in the region leading toward extremism, then this will not be in the interest of peace or in the interest of the region, nor in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the Arab cause, and not even in the interest of Israel itself in the short run.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Some in Jordan talk of the phenomenon of finding that some Jews or Israelis are buying land.*

[Husayn] *These issues are restricted to all foreigners. In any case, we issued our own laws and regulations and this talk in fact is baseless.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Concerning the upcoming economic summit in Amman, do you think it will constitute an economic turning point in the region?*

[Husayn] *I believe it will realize this opportunity and open the way for an important meeting on an economic level. The world is looking toward the region in a sound manner in terms of peace and its benefits and what possible achievement it will make available.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Let us have a quick look at the Jordanian scene. Will the Muslim Brotherhood enter the government?*

[Husayn] *The government is continuing in office now. They entered the government in the past. If they believe in the state's policy and are in harmony with it, then there is no reason for anybody not to be a member of this government. We all endeavor at all times to make the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan attract experts and to carry out its duties in construction and in realizing further stability and progress, God willing.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Some speak of dissolving the parliament. Is this true?*

[Husayn] *No. If this is true, then I am not aware of it.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Concerning those who were given prison terms because of sabotage activities in Amman, don't you fear hostile terrorist acts because of your stand on Iraq or because of the expanding fundamentalist current?*

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[Husayn] *We live with danger and challenges. This is part of our life. However, I might answer your question. Anything could happen at any moment. There are many active parties in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. However, I have absolute confidence in the majority of the Jordanian people because they know what is good for them. They are mature and have reached a stage where they can differentiate between the good and the bad. This fact perhaps has not reached the minds of our politicians. They do not know it. Therefore, some of them, just like in any other country, live in the past, in isolation from the reality of this good people. I am fully hopeful that in the future, the Jordanian individual will be an example and paragon for pluralism, tolerance, brotherhood, democracy, and respect for human rights. The realization of all this requires work, effort, sincerity, perseverance, dialogue, and all paths that lead to success.*

[Al-'Umayr] *What is your relationship with the Gulf now?*

[Husayn] *It is supposed to be brotherly. Our ties with our brothers in the Gulf are very old and well-known in all circumstances in which we voiced our desire to help and participated in peace efforts in the past. The chill in these relations at a certain time is only transitional and ephemeral. When all the facts and issues are known to the whole world, we will return to what we had been and will become even better than that.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Are there practical measures to restore or develop these relations?*

[Husayn] *There is the dialogue, contacts, and the atmosphere in the Arab world which is improving.*

[Al-'Umayr] *You said in Amman that there will be a meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques?*

[Husayn] *I sent a letter and I received a letter during my crossing of the fraternal kingdom's air space. Our foreign minister paid a visit and officials exchange visits. We greatly hope that we will soon meet, God willing.*

[Al-'Umayr] *Your foreign policy has been named Kabaritian after the foreign minister's name?*

[Husayn] *The foreign minister is one of our young men and we have confidence in him. However, policy is not made by one person. It is a result of our convictions.*

[The AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT version includes the following passage not included in the Amman Radio version:

["[Al-'Umayr] How do you view your relations with the Palestinians?

["[Husayn] Relations are at their best. We are keen on dialogue with them and eager for them to rally around their leadership, and we will be with them in meeting the challenges facing them. I believe that it is clear that we do not covet an inch of Palestinian territory.

["[Al-'Umayr] It has been claimed that Hamas makes its decisions in Amman.

["[Husayn] We know no Hamas or anyone else. We only know the PLO. If it is proved or if it appears to us that any individual or party is operating against that organization or its policies we would take measures against them."]

Hasan Receives Message From Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN0809070495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—AL-RA'Y has learned that an Iraqi envoy on Thursday delivered to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, a message from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council.

The message concerns relations between the two sisterly countries and underlines the need to achieve Arab reconciliation.

Energy Minister Postpones Visit to Iraq

JN0709160495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7-8 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Samih Darwazah, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, has only deferred but not called off a visit to Iraq, and the reason for the delay was purely technical, official sources said Wednesday [6 August].

The sources insisted that the postponement had little to do with the state of political relations between Amman and Baghdad following the 8 August defection to Jordan of two high-ranking Iraqi officials.

"The minister is in touch with his Iraqi counterpart on a continued basis, and the Iraqi Government has been informed through the proper channels of the postponement of the visit," said an official source.

Other sources expected the visit to take place before 15 September.

"The postponement of the visit should not be construed as anything but technical," said the official. "Jordan has no plans at the moment to seek alternate sources for oil.

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There may be moves to ensure the uninterrupted receipt of oil to meet Jordan's needs, but the objective is to have a contingency plan just in case Iraqi supplies are interrupted."

One of the Key issues to be discussed by Mr. Darwazah in Baghdad is the renewal of an annual Jordanian-Iraqi agreement on Iraqi oil supplies to the Kingdom.

Technically, an accord signed in 1994 expires on Aug. 31, but Iraq is continuing to truck 50,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil in line with an understanding on grace period in the agreement for renewal.

Also expected to be discussed during Mr. Darwazah's visit to Baghdad are prospects for building an oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan's only petroleum refinery at al-Zarqa in the first phase of a network that would eventually extend to al-'Aqabah, where Jordan plans to build another refinery.

The first phase will involve a stretch of 600 kilometres from the Iraqi town of Haditha to al-Zarqa.

The September bulletin of the organisation of Arab petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said Jordan and Iraq were to send a joint delegation to the United Nations in New York to discuss the project with the Security Council.

The current Iraqi oil exports to Jordan are exempt from the sweeping international sanctions imposed against Iraq. Given the continued sanctions, Jordan and Iraq would need Security Council permission to go ahead with the project.

Furthermore, external financing for the project is unlikely if the council's Sanctions Committee does not approve it.

"Negotiations will be conducted with regional and international investment institutions to secure financing for the project, which will cost around $1.4 billion," said the OAPEC bulletin.

But Jordanian sources said the $1.4 billion estimate drawn up in early 1994, was for the entire project, including the second phase, which will involve about 400 kilometres of extra pipelines.

"The first phase is expected to cost around $600 million," said an official source.

Jordan now spends about JD 30 million—about JD 6.2 per tonne— for trucking its oil needs from Iraq.

The pipeline will not only alleviate the cost but also reduce the hazardous truck traffic on the main Iraq-Jordan highway.

Ex-Foreign Minister on Defections, U.S. Policy

95LH0268A Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Shakir al-Jawhari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the Jordanian parliamentary foreign affairs committee and former foreign minister, thinks Jordan is not being threatened by Iraq. He also thinks that Jordan will not become an arena for activity to change the situation in Iraq. The former foreign minister denied the existence of a Jordanian-U.S. alliance, in the broader sense of the word.

Al-Nusur emphasized several times during his interview that he was speaking in his personal capacity and that what he says does not reflect the Jordanian official view. He thought that the defection of Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, Iraqi Industry Minister and son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, is an event of humanitarian rather than political implications. He expressed the belief that King Husayn informed 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, envoys of the Iraqi president, that the incident involves some people seeking asylum in Jordan. Al-Nusur denied he was aware of the contents of the Iraqi president's message or what took place between his two envoys and King Husayn, but he expressed the belief that Husayn Kamil apparently had some concerns and fears that prompted him to seek asylum in the house of King Husayn.

We asked al-Nusur about the defecting Iraqi minister's statement that he would begin contacts with the Iraqi opposition at home and abroad to change the situation in Iraq and whether Jordan can tolerate the consequences of such political activity on its territory. He noted that Jordan has never allowed political refugees to carry out political activity against neighboring countries. He said that this had never happened since the establishment of the kingdom. Al-Nusur added that two main principles govern Jordanian policy. These are:

1. Jordan has not practiced terrorism at all. It has not carried out any assassinations inside or outside the country. It also has not carried out any acts of violence, such as explosions and so forth.

2. Jordan has not permitted foreign nationals to carry out political activity on its territory.

Al-Nusur noted that the only exception was the Islamic activity against Syria in the seventies. They carried out this activity on Jordanian territory without the knowledge of the Jordanian Government and its institutions, including the crown. Jordan, he said, has officially apologized to Syria about this activity.

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The chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee added that he does not think Jordan will change its political line, as it has proven its usefulness, correctness, and credibility and prevented Jordan from becoming the source of threat or harm to its neighbors.

Regarding Iraq, al-Nusur said that the situation in Iraq was the concern of the Iraqi people, and they do what they want. He emphasized that Jordan will not have any hand inside Iraq and will not allow any political activity on its territory against any neighboring state.

Assessing the reasons for the defection of the Iraqi minister and his group to Jordan, al-Nusur said he had no information about the reasons, but he added: It is clear that differences have taken place inside the five-member group that controls the government in Iraq, which is the al-Majid family. He noted that al-Majid is the grandfather of Saddam Husayn al-Majid and the grandfather of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, first cousin of the Iraqi president. He said that the other three of the five-member strong group are Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil and the president's sons 'Udayy and Qusayy.

He added: It seems that differences broke out among the members of this small nucleus. He described the differences as a family dispute unrelated to democracy, human rights, the suffering of the Iraqi people, and the wars waged by the Iraqi regime on all fronts.

Answering a question about the effects of the Iraqi minister's defection on Jordanian-Gulf relations, al-Nusur said that this event would not cause us to draw away from anyone or draw closer to anyone. Our relations with the Gulf states will not be worse or better after it. I do not think it will have any effect. Regarding the conflict with the Gulf states, we did not want it then nor do we want it to continue now.

Commenting on U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement that Jordan is an ally of the United States and his promise to stand by it militarily if it faces an Iraqi attack, al-Nusur said he did not imagine that things have reached the point where Jordan has become afraid of Iraqi military concentrations or an Iraqi attack against it. He said that the Jordanian position was clear. Recalling King Husayn's position during the Gulf war, he said: We do not want to see the time when armies are summoned to the area to defend it. This issue is settled. There is no intention to let Jordan become a spearhead in the area or to change our political line. We are determined to defend our stability. We are not part of any alliance. We do not want Jordan to become an arena for the activity of others or for events to develop to make such things necessary. Jordan is not being threatened at all. I do not think that U.S. protection is needed or is on the agenda now.

Al-Nusur denied the existence of an alliance between Jordan and the United States in the broad sense of the word. He said that President Clinton did not mean that there was a military defense alliance. The President said that Jordan was our ally in the peace process, in the stability of the region and the world, and in achieving democracy and human rights. It is a behavioral alliance. He did not mean that there was a secret or an open alliance. This is what I understood from the U.S. president's statement. I am satisfied with it, and it does not bother me.

Answering a question about the joint Jordanian-U.S. military maneuvers announced in Washington, al-Nusur said that joint military maneuvers with big powers have always acquired bad reputation, but he noted that the Jordanian-U.S. maneuvers were a training exercise for the Jordanian Armed Forces. They are not intended to establish a defense pact. He said that Jordan did not join the alliance the United States established during the Gulf war, although joint Jordanian-U.S. maneuvers were conducted before the Gulf war and the occupation of Kuwait. They did not make Jordan join the ranks of one camp or another. Jordan has maintained its absolute neutrality from the military standpoint, he said.

Al-Kabariti: U.S. Initiative on Bosnia 'Unclear'

JN0709134595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti said that the aspects of the latest U.S. initiative on establishing peace in the former Yugoslavia are unclear. He indicated that Jordan wishes to know the merits and negatives of that initiative.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Kabariti said that Jordan has accepted the invitation to attend the meeting recently called for by Malaysia of the states participating in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and the member states of the liaison group emanating from the Conference of Islamic Organization.

Al-Kabariti said that most states have responded to the invitation to this meeting which will be held on 14 September at the level of foreign and defense ministers. The meeting will deal with all aspects of the Bosnian issue.

Al-Kabariti said that the military situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina poses the threat of a major human tragedy for the Bosnians, indicating that 70 percent of Bosnian territory is under the control of Serbian troops.

He said that unless there is a serious and deterring international effort supported by a strong military force

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to support any fair political solution ensuring the rights of Muslim Bosnians, then the situation will pose the threat of a disaster whose responsibility will be borne by the international community.

He said that His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan have warned against the current catastrophe represented by the criminal practices of the Serbian troops and the ethnic cleansing operations against Bosnian families in the former Yugoslavia.

Al-Kabariti added: Through all our available resources and through our international contacts, we in Jordan are trying to prevent the Serbian scheme to remove the Bosnian state from the map.

Al-Kabariti said that Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhammad Secirbegovic accepted an invitation to visit Jordan soon. He noted that the date of the visit will be fixed within days.

The Bosnian foreign minister will be accompanied by a Bosnian delegation representing various Bosnian sectors to hold expanded discussions with Jordanian officials.

Al-Kabariti said that he would like to visit Sarajevo if conditions permit and if he finds that this visit will serve the Bosnian issue.

He referred to Jordan's efforts and coordination with Bosnia officials and Arab, Islamic, and international parties whose role in Bosnia is a source of satisfaction to Jordan, such as France, to arrive at a political solution satisfactory to all parties. He said that Jordan believes that such a solution is possible in view of the seriousness displayed by the NATO states in deterring Serbian aggression and arrogance.

Meanwhile, al-Kabariti stressed that Jordan views the recent articles by some Egyptian journalists as personal views by a few journalists who are not pleased by the success of the Arab reconciliation efforts and the successes of the close official Egyptian-Jordanian relations. Therefore, for personal reasons, they wanted to mar these relations.

Columnist: Interests With Iraq Linked to Saddam

JN0709130495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "We, Iraq, and the Authorized Source"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our newspapers and foreign news agencies have carried a strange statement by an "authorized" Jordanian source. The statement depicts the Jordanian foreign policy as if it has always been for intervention in Arab countries' domestic affairs and biased in favor of certain countries against others. According to the authorized source, Jordan supported the Syrian forces' entry into Lebanon and Jordan today supports or understands Egypt's stand on Sudan!

For his part, the foreign minister spoke about Jordan's right to protect its interests in the face of developments in a neighboring country, by which he definitely means Iraq. We do not disagree with the minister with respect to the principle of protecting Jordan's interests wherever they are, even in Baghdad. However, raising the issue of interests against the backdrop of the bleeding and painful Iraqi wound poses a logical question in the heart of our national and foreign policies. The question is: What is our interest in relations with Iraq?

Over the past weeks, the government, the parliament, the press, economists, and experts have been talking about the Jordanian interests with Iraq. All unanimously agreed that our interests with Iraq are substantial and important, and more important than our interests with any neighboring or non-neighboring state.

These relations are strong and Jordan's interests with Iraq are enormous not because of the presence of common borders, for we have common borders with many regional states. However, because we are good-willed and believe in Arab ties, we were eager not to reveal to many capitals the fact that the relations with Baghdad have been good, fruitful, and useful to our interests mainly because of the presence of the current regime under Saddam Husayn.

I heard a seasoned economist stressing that the history of Jordanian-Iraqi relations has never witnessed a rule in Baghdad that has been so sincere about establishing economic, trade, and popular bridges with Jordan as the Saddam Husayn rule; nor have the Jordanian-Arab relations ever witnessed a regime that has been as committed to the spirit of Arab cooperation and generalizing the benefit of the pan-Arab wealth as the current Iraqi regime.

Therefore, Jordan's relations with Iraq are the only relations with any Arab country that enjoy the support of the majority of the Jordanian people. This is because they are the only relations that have given the word "Arabism" a spirit and a meaning.

In sum, if we are looking for our interests in Iraq, it must be recalled they are linked to the existence of the current Iraqi regime under its president. We pray that we will not see in Baghdad someone like Ahmad al-Jalabi or the likes of him.

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Buwayz Denies Return of Palestinians From Libya

NC0709115795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has denied that the foreign ministry has received any information about the intention of 15,000 Palestinians to return from Libya to Beirut. He also denied that the issue was discussed with the Palestinian delegation which visited Beirut two days ago under Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Informed sources have said that the Lebanese embassy in Libya has so far not received a request from any Palestinian in Libya to return to Lebanon.

A Palestinian source had said that a number of Palestinians arrived in Lebanon aboard three ships during the last few days.

Measures Adopted To Ban Libyan Ship From Entering Port

NC0809094495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, 8 Sep (MENA)—The Lebanese government has decided to take all necessary security and naval measures to prevent the entry of a Libyan ship coming from the port of Banghazi carrying about 15,000 Palestinians deported from Libya.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has revealed that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who returned from Damascus last night, told him that there is information to the effect that a Libyan ship is heading toward Lebanon and that a decision has been made to prevent the ship from entering the Lebanese territorial waters or from anchoring in any Lebanese port. [passage omitted]

[In a related report, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 8 September reports the following: "President Ilyas al-Hirawi today held talks with Interior Minister Michel al-Murr concerning the latest developments in the country. Prior to his departure for Paris, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri asked Minister al-Murr to take the necessary measures to prevent a Libyan ship carrying many Palestinians from entering Lebanon."]

Official Confirms Palestinians Arrive From Libya

NC0809141595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah secretary in Lebanon, Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, and Libyan Ambassador in Beirut 'Ashur al-Furtas have confirmed that Palestinians coming from Libya have entered Lebanon through Beirut Port. Abu-al-'Aynayn described the number of arrivals as ordinary but said he expected more arrivals aboard ships from Malta. He stressed that the Palestinians hold official documents issued by the Lebanese authorities. Let us listen to our dialogue with the Palestinian official:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] We now have on the line the Fatah secretary in Lebanon, Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn. Mr. Abu-al-'Aynayn, how many Palestinians have entered Lebanon from Libya by sea?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] We have no specific numbers but the figures given by the media [some reports put the number at 15,000] are exaggerated out of all proportion. The numbers are ordinary. But our information says that the Libyan Government, through Colonel al- Qadhdhafi, has decided to deport all the Palestinians in Libya. In the past 10 days over 600 Palestinians arrived at the Libyan-Egyptian border; they are still there. Arrivals in Lebanon were only individual cases; the number is normal. But we expect more to come.

[Correspondent] What do you mean by ordinary?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] Perhaps under 100 people. About 60 individuals arrived in Beirut Port a month ago or less. They encountered difficulty entering Lebanese territory although they held Palestinian travel documents issued by the Lebanese Government.

[Correspondent] Do you expect other groups to enter, and what do you expect the number to be?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] We do not have specific numbers, but we expect other Palestinians to arrive aboard ships coming from Malta.

[Correspondent] But the Lebanese Government has decided to ban these ships from entering or berthing in Lebanese territorial water.

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] Then these Palestinians will turn into the new Vietnamese. These Palestinians must not be wronged twice— forcefully deported from Libya and not allowed to return to their homes and families. These Palestinians hold passports issued by the Lebanese Government. They are originally Palestinians living in Lebanon. We appeal to the Lebanese authority, with all its agencies, and to the Lebanese president, prime minister, and Chamber of Deputies speaker to instruct that documents legally issued by the Lebanese Government be respected.

[Correspondent] How will the 600,000 Palestinians deported from Libya be distributed among the Arab countries? Will Lebanon get the biggest share?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] So far the reported figure of 15,000 is exaggerated. But let us say that this figure might be close to a logical one. These people are holders of Palestinian

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documents issued by Lebanon; they originally lived in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] So you may ask the Lebanese Government to allow the return of 15,000 or maybe slightly fewer?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] We cannot ask the Lebanese Government to do that. It was a Lebanese Government decision to help the Palestinians in Lebanon by giving them Lebanese travel documents.

[Correspondent] Have you recently reached any understanding with the Lebanese Government over this issue?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] I believe the Lebanese Government fears two things in connection with the return of these or any other Palestinians. It views the issue from two perspectives: First, how will these Palestinians find the means to live? While we are discussing with the Lebanese Government the civil and social rights of our Palestinian people and the need to grant them the legal right to work, some believe that the Palestinians, skilled and experienced people, will rival the Lebanese. Second, the fear that Palestinians may be settled in Lebanon. But we, more than the Lebanese, are fighting and resisting any attempt to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon. The Lebanese are considering the political and security dimensions of this subject. We share this with them. We accept no homeland for the Palestinians, whether they are those coming from Libya or those living in any Arab country, other than Palestine.

[Correspondent] Will some of the Palestinians deported by Libya enter the West Bank and Gaza or is this not allowed by Israel?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] This is difficult. But those who are originally from Gaza or the areas under the Palestinian Authority will have no problem returning. But some legal procedure will need to be followed first and they will return to their land.

[Correspondent] The government is accusing you of involvement in recent demonstrations and strikes in Lebanon. Do you think the ban on the entry of Palestinians is related with this?

[Abu-al-'Aynayn] Let me first say that what the media reported at the time regarding such involvement was nothing more than the fabrication of intelligence by some political forces. It was meant to serve the interests of some parties or to settle past hatreds on the part of others. We have no political or security objectives or plans in Lebanon. We are an integral part of this Palestinian entity that is now being born on the land of Palestine. Although we were part of the social strata that staged the demonstrations, we have given ourselves political and security limits that we will not cross. [end recording]

Libyan Ambassador Confirms Arrival

NC0809143695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Libyan Ambassador in Lebanon 'Ashur al- Furtas has confirmed that 480 Palestinians disembarked at Beirut Port in two groups from the Libyan ship "Ghirnatah." He denied a plan to deport Palestinians to Lebanon. He clarified that any Palestinian wishing to come to Lebanon must have a travel permit and an entry visa issued by the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli.

Ambassador al-Furtas also denied that the Lebanese ambassador came under any pressure and said the Lebanese authorities have not contacted him about the issue.

Al-Furtas told our colleague Sa'd Ilyas the following:

[Begin recording] [al-Furtas] This morning I read all the reports published by the Lebanese newspapers on this issue. I must clarify some facts. I immediately contacted the representative of the Libyan Maritime Lines in Beirut at the Dayri Navigation Office. I asked the office to give me the figures so that I would have the information available to me anytime and, thank God, I had the opportunity to do that this morning.

On 25 August the Libyan ship "Ghirnatah" arrived in Beirut with 488 passengers on board. Among them were only 240 Palestinians, all bearing Lebanese travel documents and supplies cards issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The Lebanese authorities allowed them to enter Lebanon because, in addition to Lebanese travel documents, they all had entry visas from the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli.

On 6 September the same ship arrived at Beirut with 534 passengers on board. Strangely, among them, was the same number of Palestinians, 240, and all bearing Lebanese travel documents and supplies cards. All of them had entry visas issued by the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli. They were all allowed to enter Lebanon because their papers, Lebanese travel documents and entry visas issued by the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli, were authentic.

I am eager to state that talk of a Libyan plan to deport groups of Palestinians to Lebanon is untrue. Any Palestinian national holding a Lebanese travel document and an entry visa to Lebanon, and who wishes to come to Lebanon aboard a Libyan vessel, cannot be prevented from doing so as long as his papers are legal.

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We demand that any Palestinian national who wants to visit Lebanon obtain an entry visa from the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli and a Lebanese travel document. These are the two conditions requested by the maritime transport company from any Palestinian wishing to come to Lebanon before he can be issued with the necessary travel ticket.

[Ilyas] Did the Lebanese authorities contact you to convey anything about the arrival of Palestinians in Lebanon? We hear reports that the Lebanese authorities are rejecting this and that there is an attempt to ban ships from docking at Beirut Port as of today.

[Al-Furtas] The competent Lebanese authorities have not contacted me and I have not heard of any Lebanese decision banning Lebanese [last word as heard] from docking at Beirut Port. Newspaper reports do not express the view of the official authorities. The evidence is that the Lebanese authorities last night explained many facts that were published by the Lebanese newspapers in a completely different way.

[Ilyas] Ambassador, it is said that the Lebanese Embassy in Libya is coming under pressure to issue visas. Is this true?

[Al-Furtas] I have not received from any official Libyan authority confirmation of what I read in the Lebanese papers this morning. The Lebanese ambassador in Tripoli visited me a few days ago. He is a dear friend and he did not complain to me about anything of this sort.

[Ilyas] Might they go to the occupied territories in Gaza and Jericho for example?

[Al-Furtas] I cannot discuss this issue because it is being handled by the concerned authorities in Libya. I believe that most of those who head for Gaza and Jericho bear non-Lebanese travel documents. [end recording]

Al-Furtas said there are large numbers of Arab workers in Libya and they arrive there illegally without signing contracts with any Libyan authority. Many of them do not hold identity cards indicating their nationality, he added.

The Voice of Lebanon radio tried to contact many Lebanese officials concerned with the issue but was told that they were unavailable or did not want to comment.

Al-Hirawi Addresses U.S. Travel Ban in Speech

NC0709172595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the opening of the Seventh Conference for Surgeons at the American University of Beirut on 7 September —recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I am happy to congratulate Lebanese doctors on the surgical standards they enjoy. I congratulate the surgeons and doctors in general, who have presented an example of steadfastness, sacrifice, and loyalty to the homeland and the message of medicine, because they continued to serve the sick and injured throughout the bloody ordeal that we have eliminated but that still ravages the occupied parts of our south and western al-Biqa'.

We are still paying the price in the south because of our insistence on retrieving our land, sovereignty, and dignity. We are still paying the price of clinging to a comprehensive and just peace. Is the United States' decision to ban travel to Lebanon, despite the security we enjoy here, in the interest of the United States, or Lebanon, or the just and comprehensive peace that the United States sponsors? Dear conferees, we had hoped your conference would convene fully and comprehensively. But the U.S. ban has prevented U.S. doctors from attending. How we hoped that the United States, which we believe is serious in its efforts for peace, would give up the ban and back the implementation of the international resolutions on Lebanon in the same way these are being implemented with great enthusiasm elsewhere. [applause]

Dear conferees, brothers and friends, convey to your countries that through all those who are loyal to Lebanon, Lebanon will again become the infirmary and spa of the east. It will again also become the venue for scientific conferences in medicine or any other elevated humanitarian field and a starting point for enlightenment and implementation. Whoever supports Lebanon supports its reconstruction, peace, and liberation. May God support you in your meetings. Long may Lebanon and its people exist.

Hizballah Guide Links Iraq Situation to 'U.S. Plan'

MM0709153395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah's Guide in Lebanon Considers Defection of Saddam's Sons-in-Law 'U.S. Matter'" — quotation marks throughout as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said

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that "developments in the Iraqi question are working for the U.S. plan to bring about appropriate conditions to intensify the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean." Fadlallah said during a Koranic interpretation lesson that "this reality represents a U.S. message to whom it may concern, namely that the United States is in full control of all the locations still experiencing a kind of rebellion at one degree or another against U.S. policy and Israeli policy in the region."

He added: "The escape of the two men General Husayn Kamil and his Brother Saddam from Iraq and their defection to Jordan is a purely U.S. matter and has nothing to do with toppling Saddam Husayn, because he is staying" at the the U.S. will. The reason is because the United States still needs him, because the Iraqi question continues to be influenced by U.S. pressures.

He stressed his previous position, namely "disapproval of any bombing methods targeting innocent citizens, whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims. He urged the French Government not to focus on the accusations of one side. He linked the protests aimed against France vis-a-vis its nuclear experiments with the attempt to confuse the French scene by explosions."

Meanwhile, Hizballah in Lebanon has criticized what it termed "the persistence in wagering on the negotiations with the Zionists with the aim of achieving an imaginary peace under Israeli practices which prove that it is impossible to establish any foundation for such a peace.

In a statement issued yesterday the party said that the celebration that Israel has begun to mark the 3,000 anniversary of King David's proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of his state "are nothing but new falsification of history to be added to the other false claims."

The statement stressed that "Jerusalem is "Islamic, Arab, and is the heart of Palestine, which, in turn, is the heart of the Islamic and Arab nations, and it will remain so even if all the nations of the globe say otherwise."

Three SLA Soldiers Reportedly Injured by Bomb

NC0709140595 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorists detonated an explosive device as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol passed along the center of Kurum al-Arz in Jazzin this afternoon. Three soldiers were wounded, two lightly and one moderately.

Hizballah Claims Responsibility

NC0709163295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon the hostile occupation artillery shelled the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah from their posts in al-Zaffatah and al-'Ayshiyah. The shelling concentrated on Mlikh, al-Luwayzah, the Sujud hills, Wadi al-Rayhan, and al-Jabal al-Rafi'. The shelling was accompanied by raking operations using heavy machine-guns targeting the 'Arab Salim outskirts and the woods of Sujud and al-Rayhan.

The Voice of the South radio, the mouthpiece of the Agent militias, reported earlier that an explosive device went off under a mechanized militia patrol passing along the 'Ayn Majdalin road in Jazzin. The radio admitted that one of the patrol's men was killed and two were hurt. In a statement distributed in Beirut, Hizballah announced its responsibility for the operation.

Elsewhere hostile warplanes this morning overflew the south and Beirut and broke the sound barrier on two sorties. They also carried out mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Today the occupation forces released Public Security Inspector As'ad Ni'mah Salamah from four months of detention. An International Red Cross car transported him to Beirut via the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

Birri, al-Hariri Continue Meetings in Damascus

NC0609143495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of expanded consultations between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, which was held in the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam ended at noon today. A number of ranking officials attended the session. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Damascus reports that a meeting between leaders Birri and al-Hariri will be held this afternoon. That will be followed by an expanded session this evening in the office of the Syrian vice president. Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi will host a working dinner in the evening to continue discussions.

Speaker Birri's party expressed his satisfaction with the atmosphere at the discussions. The sources pointed out that the topics of discussion should be well founded.

Prime Minister al-Hariri's entourage said that the atmosphere is positive and satisfactory and that there is agreement on numerous issues. They added that matters are being handled in depth to initiate a new political

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stage befitting the presidential elections. These circles said Prime Minister al-Hariri will return to Beirut tomorrow.

Al-Hariri Returns, Holds Meeting With al-Hirawi

NC0709173295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, we now move to the Presidential Palace with our correspondent Yazbiq Wahbah. What news do you have, Yazbiq?

[Begin Wahbah recording] What is new is that about three minutes ago the prime minister arrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda to inform President Ilyas al-Hirawi of his talks in Damascus over the past three days. We will inform you of the details later. [end recording]

Minister Junblatt Views South, Peace, Iraq

NC0709160695 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Aug 95 p 14

["Exclusive" interview with Walid Junblatt, minister for refugees in Lebanon, PSP chief, and leader of the Druze clan, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran "last week"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What did you discuss in your meeting with Iranian officials during your visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Junblatt] We conferred on various issues including Iran's attention to Lebanese problems; the situation in Lebanon, reconstruction in Lebanon, and the Iranian officials' eagerness for the return of tranquility to Lebanon and the return of the refugees from south Lebanon to their hearths and homes.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani has declared his support for Lebanon and Iran's readiness to assist Lebanon. How do you intend to convey these sentiments to Lebanese officials?

[Junblatt] I will inform the Lebanese president, prime minister, and officials of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interest. I will convey Iran's appreciation of the efforts of President Ilyas al- Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Are you visiting Iran at the behest of the Lebanese president or as the leader of the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party]?

[Junblatt] I have not been sent on assignment by the Lebanese Government. I have longstanding relations with the Iranian officials, who also have very positive relations with the PSP and the Druze clan. The Druze clerics visit Iran and the Druze enjoy cultural ties with Iran.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In recent weeks the Zionist regime has repeatedly committed aggression against south Lebanon. The aggression continues. When will it end?

[Junblatt] The Zionist aggression continues in south Lebanon daily. Clashes occur daily between the Zionists and Hizballah. The Zionist aggression against south Lebanon will only end when this regime leaves south Lebanon and withdraws unconditionally in compliance with Security Council resolutions. Otherwise the Muslim revolutionaries will continue their operations against the Zionist enemy.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] But we see the Zionist regime setting conditions for withdrawal.

[Junblatt] Yes. Israel is setting conditions, so we too are propounding conditions. We want the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, failing which we will never halt our struggle against the Zionists.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Is the Zionist regime trying to link its withdrawal from south Lebanon with progress in talks with Syria?

[Junblatt] No. The Zionists know there is complete coordination between Syria and Lebanon on the Golan Heights.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How do you see the future in south Lebanon?

[Junblatt] Things will continue as they are, that is, a wrathful battle against the Zionists until Israel withdraws unconditionally from south Lebanon.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The Zionist regime has propounded the disarmament of the Islamic Resistance for its withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Junblatt] When Israel withdraws from south Lebanon the Islamic Resistance will halt its operations so that the Israelis will have no excuse. The condition for ceasing Islamic Resistance operations is Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How do you view the talks between Syria and the Zionist regime?

[Junblatt] Syria has legal rights to the Golan Heights and wants them back. The return of the Heights to Syria is inevitable. The Syrian officials have made this request clear in the media and in the talks. Israel opposes this Syrian demand and is trying to extort concessions

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through manipulation. Therefore the talks have been suspended.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What do you think about Syria and Israel trading accusations of obstructionism?

[Junblatt] Syria's stance regarding its rights in Golan and its sovereignty over the Golan Heights is clear and categorical. Its insistence on vindicating its rights should not be described as obstructionism. It is Israel that is the belligerent usurper.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Do you think that Syria and the Zionist regime will reach an understanding or sign an accord this year?

[Junblatt] I do not think so. The Israeli Government adopts a harsh stance and we know that Israel merely wishes to extort concessions and undermine the lawful issues. We have seen the Israelis trample over the issue of Palestine after signing an accord with 'Arafat. They permitted him to rule over Gaza but did not resolve the issues of the West Bank, settlements, sovereignty, water, and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You are in charge of the Ministry of Refugees in Lebanon. You know that tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon and there is talk of giving them permanent residence. Do you agree with this?

[Junblatt] The Palestinians have sought refuge in Lebanon and we should provide them with social, economic, and health assistance until the conditions are right for their return to their homeland, that is, the West Bank.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Is it true that in some cases Palestinian groups assume responsibility for attacks on the Zionists in south Lebanon?

[Junblatt] No. This is not true. The anti-Israeli operations are carried out by the Islamic Resistance in south Lebanon just as the operations in occupied Palestine are carried out by the Islamic Resistance, Hamas. [passage omitted]

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You have heard that Saddam's sons-in-law recently sought asylum in Jordan. Do you think this is a premeditated move designed to topple the regime?

[Junblatt] This is the beginning of the collapse of the Iraqi regime. Saddam will not relinquish power without force. As PSP members we would back the national and democratic forces in Iraq, not Saddam's sons-in-law. Along with other officials, they are accomplices in Saddam's war crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, and the people.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Some observers believe that Saddam's sons- in-law fled under U.S. coordination. What is your opinion?

[Junblatt] It is quite clear that this is a U.S. game. Perhaps the United States wants to replace Saddam with his son-in-law.

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Paper Urges U.S. Intervention in Peace Process

JN0709115895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 7 Sep (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says any objective and unbiased observer of the peace process in the region will inevitably agree that Israel has closed all doors to a solid and firm peace and failed to take a single positive step toward restoring confidence in the credibility of the peace process.

The paper adds: Despite the positive Arab attitude, Israel continues to weasel, procrastinate, fabricate obstacles, and ignore the basic components of peace. Israel views peace only as partial and inequitable deals that enable it to seize everything—land, peace, and security—without having to offer anything substantial in return.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration, which is sponsoring the peace process, now knows the one obstructing and aborting the peace process and stripping it of all means of advancement and success. It now has ample evidence that Israel, through its games and practices, wants to destroy all peace hopes and revive regional wars and conflicts.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH calls on the U.S. Administration to shoulder its political and moral responsibilities, and to use all available means of influence to persuade Israel to return to the path of right and reason, and to refrain from fabricating obstacles along the path of peace.

Papers Blame Israelis for Stalemate in Talks

JN0709114195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "Those Who Are Disappointed," AL-BA'TH says: What is really astonishing is the Israeli rulers' shedding of crocodile tears after having pushed the peace process toward collapse. The paper asks: Who encouraged these rulers not to pursue the peace process to its final goal as originally agreed with the United States, which initiated and sponsored the peace process in the region? It also asks: Who, other than the Israeli rulers, has set conditions and made demands unrelated to the peace initiative in a bid to prevent it from advancing? Who, other than the Israeli rulers, drifted away from international legitimacy resolutions, on which the peace process was based, in order to dwarf and distort it? Moreover, the paper adds, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he was disappointed to hear President Hafiz al-Asad's Cairo statements on the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track.

AL-BA'TH continues: The Israeli rulers have spoken much about the peace process on the Syrian track, either individually or collectively. Playing on words, they tried to blame Syria for the stalemate in the peace process. They never approached the essence of the problem or the positions of the parties involved.

AL-BA'TH says: President Hafiz al-Asad has in just a few words dotted all the i's in the Cairo news conference and presented to the entire world the problem facing the peace talks and the reasons that led to their stalemate. The few words he said were meaningful, accurate, and responsible. They indicated an eagerness to achieve a true peace based on the objectives of the peace process. The president clarified everything.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The logic of deviating from international legitimacy has no hope, future, or perspective. This is a fact that should be understood by the Israeli rulers, who are always driven by their twisted logic and futile maneuvers. These rulers will reap one disappointment after another if they do not abandon their wretched logic and exposed maneuvers and if they do not return to the fold of international legitimacy or fail to respect international laws and resolutions.

A commentary in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: President Hafiz al-Asad has very clearly and accurately pinpointed the reasons behind the stalemate in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. At a joint news conference with President Mubarak in Cairo on Sunday, he announced that this process is dormant because of Israel's intransigence and refusal to implement the international legitimacy resolutions, in addition to its continuous evasion of committing itself to the conditions and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Any objective and unbiased observer will inevitably agree that Israel has closed all doors to a solid and well-established peace. It has not shown a single positive attitude that would restore confidence in the credibility of the peace process. The paper adds: All indications point to the fact that Israel lists peace at the end of its agenda. It thinks about expansion and settlement activity more than it does about peace and stability. Its hostile practices in southern Lebanon and all the killing, persecution, and destruction it is committing there are cogent proof that its attempts to undermine the will of peace and its insistence on fabricating an atmosphere of tension and escalation will render the question of peace extremely difficult and complicated.

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In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has practically not offered anything to prove its good intentions. On the contrary, it has done its best to obstruct the peace process and prevent it from materializing according to the international legitimacy criteria and the requirements of security and stability. It insisted on marginalizing and ignoring the Madrid principles in order to avoid full withdrawal as stipulated by UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel imagines that it can achieve peace while keeping the land as it did in the flawed settlement reached in the Oslo agreement and its annexes. These are the reasons for not being optimistic about the possibility of activating the peace process.

Talabani Meets Khaddam, Iraqi Oppositionists

NC0709161395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of his diplomatic tour of Arab and European countries, brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus at noon yesterday. The one-hour meeting discussed the situation in Iraq and relations between the PUK and the Syrian Government. At 1700 the same day, Jalal Talabani and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam held a second meeting to discuss topics raised in their first meeting, particularly current events in Iraq and their dimensions. [passage omitted]

Within brother Jalal Talabani's meetings and contacts in Damascus, he met a delegation from the pan-Arab trend in the Iraqi opposition at 1900 yesterday. The delegation consisted of Abu-Salah Mahdi al-'Ubaydi and Nuri al-Bahrani. He also met at 2000 with Bayan Jabr, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Economic Agreement Signed With Yemen

JN0709192895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of Syrian-Yemeni talks held on 5-7 September were signed at the Ministry of Economy this afternoon. For the Syrian side, the minutes were signed by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. For the Yemeni side, the minutes were signed by Muhammad al-Afandi, minister of trade and supply. Attending the signing ceremony were representatives from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, the State Planning Commission, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa, the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus, and the Yemeni delegation.

The minutes include a review of the two sisterly countries' experience in the vital areas that contributed to their economic progress in implementation of the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and President 'Ali 'Abadallah Salih. These areas include economic pluralism, the policy of rationalizing exports and imports, pricing, supply, internal trade, agricultural development policy, food security, and the policy of encouraging investment.

The minutes provide for developing trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural cooperation between the two countries in the interest of both sides. The minutes also stress the importance of upgrading and expanding trade between the two countries in a manner that serves their interests.

The two sides agreed on taking the necessary measures to encourage and increase exchange of visits by businessmen, mount fairs and commercial markets, increase exchange of commodities and the volume of trade between the two countries.

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Afghanistan

Statement Issued on Pakistan Embassy Events

LD0709225695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Foreign Ministry statement issued in Kabul on 7 September — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] Above all, it must be mentioned that the sad event at the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul was not an exceptional and unprecedented event in the world especially in a war-torn country. The incident was not unrelated to the recent events. [Words indistinct]

Yesterday's demonstrators at the Pakistan embassy only wanted to express with a loud voice their hatred and repulsion over direct foreign intervention in the affairs of Afghans. However, when a Naderiya high school student was shot by someone inside the embassy, the situation intensified to the extent that reinforced security forces were unable to push back the wave of thousands angry Muslims. Two strong security belts around the embassy were broken and the demonstrators forced themselves inside. The situation was out of control. Members of the embassy, including Ambassador Qazi Humayun, were injured and one regional secretary was killed.

Regret is expressed over the loss of the embassy staff, injury of other personnel, and burning of the Pakistan embassy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] reports that a joint high ranking commission has begun an investigation.

The wounded personnel were transferred to a hospital and all available means were used to save the life of those wounded. Fortunately, two operations on his excellency the ambassador and one operation on the military attache were successfully carried out. The condition of others were improving recovering from shock and injury.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs of the ISA, after visiting the patients in the hospital, telephoned His Excellency Najmuddin Shaikh, Pakistan's deputy foreign secretary. In expressing sympathy concerning the loss of Mr Masihi, he passed on information on the others who were recovering from their injuries. In working continuously last night, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the cooperation of the Pakistani side, the exceptional arrangements made by the staff of 400-bed army hospital, the personnel of the airport and the Red Cross, managed to organize the successful transfer of the Pakistani embassy's wounded personnel to Islamabad. As a result, the wounded personnel were transferred today at 0610 to Islamabad by a military plane of Pakistan. Our representative in Islamabad has been instructed to hand over a formal note of our Ministry to this effect to the competent authorities of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We sincerely hope that this event will not have any repercussions on the reciprocal fraternal and friendly relations between the two neighboring countries; and the Pakistani side can make a correct analysis of our country's issues.

Defense Ministry Sends Message to Army Personnel

LD0709211895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Message from the "leadership delegation of the Ministry of Defense" to the "courageous army personnel and all devout defenders of the country"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] May peace and blessing of God be upon you. [passage omitted]

The recent events in the west of the country demonstrate that the intelligence services of foreign countries, in particular Pakistan, after having been disappointed in the efforts and actions of their stooges in the battlefield, have decided to remedy the situation by direct military interference in the affairs of our country. The arrival of militiamen and aircraft and the fact that Pakistani generals were in control of combat actions in the events which took place in the west of the country — Farah and Herat provinces and Shendand airport — are clear evidence for this claim.

In warning the state and the militarist Government of Pakistan and asking them to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of our country as soon as possible, we add: The shortsighted rulers of Pakistan should know that the mojahedin, the Armed Forces, and the people of Afghanistan have in the past never accepted alien domination, and this time they also will not allow any alien forces or their agents to control their destiny. They will teach the present aggressors the painful lesson of history, just as their ancestors did.

Defenders of the Islamic Army, the enemy conspiracy is continuing. Consolidate your defensive trenches further and be alert and vigilant in respect of the enemy's conspiracies. As you have defeated the enemies of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in all areas and fronts [words indistinct] Oh, God willing, this time too you will have the ability to give a resolute and timely reply to all Satanic forces or sold-out agents who want to implement the objectives of foreigners in our freeborn country.

You will definitely succeed because Almighty God is with you; the nation is with you; your path is the

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righteous path and right always prevails over wrong. Verily success comes from God.

Dostam Forces Threaten To Shoot Down Airliners

BK0809054695 (Internet) PAKISTAN NEWS SERVICE in English 8 Sep 95

["Dostam forces to shoot down alien aircraft" — PAKISTAN NEWS SERVICE headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — To further tighten the noose around Kabul, the forces opposed to President Rabbani and his Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on Sunday [3 September] warned all international airliners that they would shoot down any plane venturing into their airspace without acquiring proper clearance from them.

Government Forces Clear Villages of Dostam Militia

LD0709193595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chechal and Safid Kotal areas, Sholgara district, Balkh Province, came yesterday under the control of the Islamic army. Chechal and Safid Kotal are very important strategic locations.

After the seizure of these locations, supply route from Samangan Province to Balkh Province has been opened for the Islamic army.

According to the recent reports received from Balkh Province, a large area has been cleared today of militiamen. As a result of a successful operation carried out today in Takana and Sakana-ye Sofla regions, 11 villages have been cleared by the Islamic army. As a result of this operation, a large number of ammunition and goods seized by the Islamic army.

Thirteen other villages, including Konej, Gola, Anderab, Depuch, Shykh, Fasela, [words indistinct] and Awariyun, Balkh Province, were cleared of the militiamen.

The advance of the mojahedin toward Sholgara district and Koshenda sub-district is continuing.

Government Denies Reports on Fall of Badakhshan

LD0709203795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation is calm in Badakhshan Province and the province is under the government control. This point was stated by esteemed Sayd Mohammad Amin Tariq, governor of Badakhshan, to the correspondent of the Bakhtar in a telephone conversation. Tariq said the government sovereignty is firm in Feyzabad city and other 20 administrative units and military centers. All reports and propaganda on fall of Badakhshan Province are untrue and far from truth. The governor of Badakhshan added that the reconstruction work is underway in the capital and districts of this province with the assistance of the government and the international charity organizations.

Links between Kabul and Feyzabad are undisrupted and daily flights between Kabul and Badakhshan are continuing. On behalf of the people of Badakhshan, the governor of Badakhshan has assured the Islamic State not to spare any kind of self-sacrifice against the enemies of Islam and independence of the country. The people of Feyzabad held a grand meeting today and have expressed their hatred against Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of our country in particular in the western provinces.

[Begin recording] [Bakhtar correspondent, in Dari] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan. As you have heard last night via the BBC Radio that the Islamic State's oppositions have claimed the seizure of Badakhshan Province. I spoke with Sayd Mohammad Amin Tariq, governor of Badakhshan Province about the military-political situation in the province. May we draw your attention to this conversation.

After introducing yourself, would you please shed light on military-political situation in Badakhshan Province?

[Tariq, in Dari] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Concerning the military-political situation in Badakhshan I must say to the listeners of Radio Afghanistan that Badakhshan Province is calm and peace is secured. [passage omitted]

As I have heard last night via mass media and the BBC, quoting liar General Yusif, that the Coordination Council is controlling Badakhshan Province. This report is totally false. [passage omitted] The UN representative and foreign organizations are operating in Badakhshan Province. The BBC can obtain information from these foreign organizations in Badakhshan Province.

[Correspondent] As you have also heard, the oppositions to government have claimed that Mohammad Basir Khalid who was commander of a division earlier, has joined the opposition groups. What do you say about this?

[Tariq] Basir Khalid has not defected to the Coordination Council. He was a government servant, dismissed from one job and has given another one. Basir Khalid is living in Baharak district which is under the control of the Islamic sovereignty. He has not been carrying any activity and he is now working for the Islamic government. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Taleban Reportedly Captures Western Province

BK0709053495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0529 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sept 7 (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban religious students have taken control of the western province of Ghowr without facing resistance from forces loyal to the government, a Taleban spokesman said Thursday [7 September].

Ghowr, a small and poor province, located in western Herat province, has no military or political importance, the spokesman said adding that its fall was imminent after Isma'il Khan, governor of the town of Herat fled two days ago.

When the Taleban entered the area on Wednesday, the local administration, which had only a very small force in the city "did not resist," the spokesman Hashim Khan told AFP.

Taleban supporters were already in control of much of Ghowr's rural areas, he added.

Ghowr was in the hands of troops loyal to Isma'il Khan, an ally of President Borhanoddin Rabbani. Its fall marks the end of Isma'il Khan's last pocket in western Afghanistan.

The Taleban have already taken Nimroz, Helmand and Farah, while Badghis was captured by the forces of Uzbek General Abdol Rashid Dostam.

Press reports said the Taleban now control 14 out of 30 of Afghanistan's provinces while President Borhanoddin Rabbani's rival Dostam controls seven others.

Bangladesh

Zia Call for OIC Meeting on Bosnia Supported

BK0809042595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Majority of the OIC countries have lent their support to the initiative of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for holding an emergency OIC summit on Bosnia. This was disclosed by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan at a news briefing in Dhaka yesterday. He said the decision on the proposed summit is likely to be taken at the meeting of a select group of OIC foreign and defense ministers in Kuala Lumpur to be held on the 14th and 15th of this month. The foreign secretary said the ministerial conference at Kuala Lumpur will be preceded by a meeting of officials to be participated by foreign secretaries and chiefs of army staff of the OIC Contact Group and the countries which contributred troops in Bosnia under the UN umbrella. He said Bangladesh attended a joint meeting held between the OIC Contact Group and the Western contact group on Bosnia held in paris yesterday.

Mr. Farooq Sobhan said Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will pay a state visit to Bangladesh some time next month.

Three Reportedly Dead After Indian Aircraft Crashes

BK0709164095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Sept 7 (AFP) — Three people, including the pilot, were killed Thursday [7 September] after an Indian Cessna aircraft crashed in Bangladesh, the official BSS news agency reported.

It said the aircraft burst into flames after crashing in northern Panchagarh district more than 248 kilometers (155 miles) from Dhaka and Bangladeshi security personnel were guarding the wreckage.

The aircraft's origin or other details were not immediately available.

Meanwhile, the state-run teleivision said it was a fighter jet and it left a trail of smoke before crashing.

BSS quoted a foreign office spokesman as saying that Indian government has been informed about the incident and Bangladesh would cooperate in repatriating the body.

Abu Baker, a senior official in Panchagar said by telephone that three villagers suffered burn injuries and were being treated at a hospital.

He said he wes not expert and was unsure whether the aircraft was a Cessna or a fighter jet.

Zia Returns From Beijing UN Conference on Women

BK0609163695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned home this evening after attending the UN-sponsored World Conference on Women in Beijing. The prime minister was received at Zia International Airport by cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials. Earlier, at noon today, Madam Chun Di, vice chairman of the Chinese Women's Federation, Chinese leaders, and officials of the Embassy of Bangladesh bade her farewell at Beijing airport. [passage omitted]

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Commentary on Prime Minister's Visit to Beijing

BK0709110095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, reiterated in Beijing yesterday their commitment to deepen further Sino-Bangladesh bilateral relations. The commitment came during the talks between the two leaders in the Chinese capital. Both Begum Zia and Jiang Zemin emphasized the need for further strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and China. President Zemin described the existing Sino-Bangladesh ties as an excellent, friendly, and an old one. The Chinese president thanked Begum Zia for attending the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing saying that her presence in the UN-sponsored conference has brightened the image of this grand meeting.

During the talks, the Bangladesh prime minister termed China as one of the South Asian country's trusted friends and said there exists excellent relations between the two countries. Begum Zia said Chinese assistance has been immensely useful for the development of the Bangladesh economy. She pointed to Chinese assistance in the Boropukuria coal mine, the Rauzan power plant, construction of bridges, and other infrastructural projects. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia underscored the need for reducing the trade gap between Bangladesh and China and urged the Chinese Government to import more Bangladeshi goods. In response, the Chinese president said he is aware of trade imbalance between the two countries. He assured the Bangladesh prime minister of expeditious steps in the future to reduce the trade imbalance.

Meanwhile, Begum Khaleda Zia held wide-ranging discussions with her Chinese counterpart, Li Peng, and sought close Sino-Bangladesh collaboration in different fields. Begum Zia said the two countries have similar experiences, specially in the field of agriculture, rural development, and small and cottage industry.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing has been significant. The visit has taken place this year, when both Bangladesh and China are celebrating the 20 years of formal diplomatic relations. The bilateral relations have grown sizably over the last four and a half years since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia assumed her office in 1991. It was shaheed [martryed] President Ziaur Rahman first to give the go ahead for (?strengthening) bilateral relations with China. Since then, frequent exchange of visits by top Chinese and Bangladesh political leaders and the officials added new significance to the friendliness (?in) bilateral ties. This was apparent when China began providing technical and economic assistance to Bangladesh in broad economic sectors.

Today, China is actively cooperating with Bangladesh in building bridges, in exploring Boropukuria coal fields, and in setting up power generation plants. Bangladesh already welcomed Chinese investments in the country's specialized economic zone. In fact, in the middle of the current month, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visited Bangladesh to review the existing bilateral relations with his Bangladeshi counterpart. The vice foreign minister and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan reviewed new areas for cooperation. Joint industrial ventures and investment protection for economic cooperation also figured prominently in the talks between the Chinese vice foreign minister and the Bangladesh foreign secretary. China can effectively reduce the existing trade imbalance by setting up joint ventures in Bangladesh at the two export processing zones of Chittagong and Dhaka. According to official sources, industrial units located in the zones fetched U.S. $233 million in the 1994-95 fiscal year. The figure was much higher than the target set for the year $180 million.

Role of U.S. Official in Crisis Solution Viewed

BK0609142195 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 5 Sep 95 p 4

[Article by A.Z.M. Haider from the "Focus" column]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Robin Raphel, is in the city on a 4-day visit apparently for what is called routine consultation—a word often used by diplomats as a cliche. When diplomats have little to say, they use such jargons to confound the confusion.

Asked what she will consult, a bigwig of the Foreign Ministry said rather nonchalantly the distinguished visitor from the United States would hold consultations on the problem of child labour, trade and American investment in Bangladesh. Dhaka is likely to urge Washington during the talks to raise the volume of ready-made garments import from this country from one billion dollars to 2 billion dollars. It will also request the US to write off [the] credit piled up to 2 billion dollars under PL-480. It is reliably learnt Bosnia will figure prominently in the course of discussion.

It sounds rather amazing that the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, who deals mainly with political and security issues in South Asia, should come all the way from

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Washington to deliberate on the problem of child labour in our garment industry in particular. This is essentially a headache of the private sector. It can be discussed and disposed off at a much lower level. Likewise, trade, US investment, exemption of credit under PL-480 etc are essentially financial matters which do not strictly come within the purview of Raphel, although as chief of South Asia desk in the State Department, she is within her rights to deliberate on these issues.

Bosnia is, of course, an important subject on which she will most probably like to dilate particularly in view of the firm stance Bangladesh has of late taken to convene an extra-ordinary session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit. Raphel is likely to take this opportunity to refer to NATO airstrikes on Serbian positions in a bid to water down Bangladesh stance on Bosnia.

Searching queries revealed that the big fish would not lead Bangladesh side to the talks. It was stated [that] the Foreign Secretary who had accompanied the Prime Minister to Eve's carnival at Beijing would dash back home on the 6th of September to lead Bangladesh delegation to the "routine consultation" with Robin Raphel late in the afternoon the same day or in the morning of the following day.

What sounds highly implausible is that she will fritter away full three days starting from September 4 without any work to have routine consultations with the foreign secretary in the Foreign Office. What will she do during the prolonged interregnum of three days beside having a round of talks with Sheikh Hasina on the current political standoff in this country. She may also take this opportunity to hold talks with Professor Badruddoza Chowdhhury and a few other BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] surrogates in an attempt to break the present political stalemate. Since she will have little to do during the three day interregnum, she may spend the time by exchanging views with JP [Jatiya Party] and Jamaat leaders on the prevailing political crisis in the country.

In the course of her discussion with the government and the opposition leaders Raphel will carefully consider all aspects of the government and the opposition points of view in a bid to hammer out all acceptable solution to both. Raphel's effort at negotiated settlement of the present political impasse reflects the US concern at the state of affairs in this country and sincere desire to encourage the parties concerned to resolve their problem amicably through dialogue and discussion.

The United States is anxious to help sustain and further strengthen democratic system in this country, as elsewhere in the world, instead of watching it dwindle down and yield place to undemocratic totalitarian dispensation. It is in pursuance of the the US policy that Robin Raphel has come to Dhaka to contribute to the satisfactory solution of the political problem facing the country.

Raphel accompanied Mrs Hillary Clinton during her visit to Bangladesh last year. She, therefore, knows what has transpired between Mrs Clinton, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina. With this background knowledge, Robin will be at a positive advantage when she resumes talks with two Begums of Bangladesh.

As head of South Asia desk Robin enjoys a lot of leverage in dealing with Bangladesh. She can deploy that leverage to bring the feuding sides to narrow their differences and come to an agreement.

Police Cordon Off Parliament in General Strike

BK0609074395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Sept 6 AFP) — The Bangladesh capital was gripped by a dawn-to-dusk general strike Wednesday [6 September] called by opposition parties to protest political violence and the opening of a new session of parliament.

Police and para-military forces were out in force.

They cordoned off the parliament building and barricaded roads leading to the complex, witnesses said. Police have banned marches and carrying of sticks or other weapons in the area.

Private offices, businesses, schools and shops were shut. Most vehicles were off the streets. Only a few pedicabs were circulating and some were set alight by militants trying to enforce the strike.

Government offices were open, but attendance was low.

This is the third strike in five days as the opposition presses its campaign to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resign and call early elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Zia, currently in Beijing for the UN World Conference on Women, has rejected their demands but has offered to meet the opposition for talks.

The parliament session is the first since 145 opposition MPs had their seats declared vacant after they boycotted parliament for more than 90 days.

The opposition claims the upcoming session is illegal since only members of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be present in the 330-seat chamber. The strike also coincides with the visit of US Assistant Secretary of

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State Robin Raphel, who has held talks with opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

After their meeting Wajed said "everybody was optimistic" about settling the crisis that has led to at least two deaths in street protests since August 27.

The opposition, including Wajed's Awami League, the Jatiya Party of deposed Bangladeshi president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, have been campaigning for the past 17 months to force Zia to resign.

Capital Observes Strike Called by Opposition Groups

BK0609163595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A day-long strike was observed in the capital today in response to a call by some opposition parties. All shops, private business establishments, and educational institutions remained closed; however, government offices functioned as usual. No vehicles were on the streets; however, a number of rickshaws and rickshaw vans were operating. Railway sources said that train services were normal. Bangladesh Biman's domestic flights operated on schedule; however, three international flights were delayed. Mills and factories operated as usual.

Police said that a man, Mujiibur Rahman, was killed by gunmen in Maniknagar, in the Demra police station area. Two others were injured. The incident may have been the result of (?local) hostility between two groups.

Editorial Views Political Climate, Investment

BK0209163095 Dhaka THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS in English 26 Aug 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Farewell to Uncertainties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Forecasts for the political weather in Bangladesh are giving grim signals. The storm is brewing fast, but there are no signs of tangible efforts to clear the darkening clouds. This time, the storm threatens not only to destabilise the country's political institutions, but also to cause climatic changes as the nation pursues, vigorously but least successfully, economic growth by way of getting a bigger share of global investment flows.

The nature and extent of crisis that political uncertainties cause are exemplified by the Indian case. Political brawl has recently cost India's single largest foreign investment; and the nation's fast-growing image as good haven for international investors has received a jolt because of the political chaos and uncertainty sweeping the vast nation. Thanks largely to the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party's [BJP] chauvinistic campaign at the centre of which is anti-globalisation slogan, big translational companies are faced with a difficult dilemma for the first time since the country opened up four years ago. There are reports that some of them, already in India, are withholding their plans for expanding their presence as the general elections are only months away. Many of them have taken a wait-and-see approach. The uncertainty about continuation of current policies has been reinforced by the likelihood of the increasingly restive Hindu nationalists coming to power at the Centre. In the states where they have been voted to power, they have already applied what they are campaigning. This has given ample signals to the business that what they have been saying are not mere slogans. BJP's ascent to power may mean many more incidents such as the Enron imbroglio. And foreign consumer-goods producers who are being threatened to be driven out of India will surely feel much more vulnerable when or if the Hindu nationalists call the shots in New Delhi. All these are lowering India's rating as investment destination, at least for the time being.

In a way, Bangladesh's case is largely similar to that of India, though its economic problems are more structural in nature. Here, the question though is not who comes to power, the uncertainty in this country is about the normal process of governance. But similarity lies in the manner of pursuing the political agenda. The BJP is exploiting the situation by promoting economic nationalism to reap political benefits but remains least bothered about the entailing economic costs. From this point of view, both cases are strikingly similar. If press reports are right, or even partially indicative of the exact situation, the nation is heading towards a long-drawn battle that [is] going to give the skeptics some more strong points against Bangladesh as far as the business environment is concerned. The problem is that in the case of Bangladesh, which has an image problem that offers much less for the foreign investors to be confident about this country, the uncertainties will cost much more. It seems there is still some time to clear the air before it gets thicker. Admittedly, the initiative at this stage, for all practical purposes, will have to come from the ruling party, though the opposition shares an equal responsibility for institutionalisation of democracy. And such an initiative may also bring in rich political dividends.

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India

Journalists Said Injured in 'Powerful' Bomb Blast

BK0709125795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Agency reports from Srinagar say three journalists were seriously injured when a powerful bomb exploded in the office-cum-residential quarters of the BBC correspondent at Pratap Park this afternoon. All the three — Yusuf Jameel, Mushtaq Ali, and Habibullah Naqash — have been rushed to the hospital. The condition of Mushtaq Ali, photojournalist of UNI, is stated to be serious. According to an eyewitness, a burqa [traditional veil]-clad woman, introducing herself as an activist of a banned terrorist outfit, handed over a parcel at the office around 1500 this afternoon and fled. As soon as the parcel was opened, it exploded injuring the three persons.

Kashmir Government Renews Appeal To Free Hostages

BK0809092395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and several media organizations have condemned yesterday's bomb attack on journalists in Srinagar. The New York-based committee to protect journalists in a statement in Washington described the incident as cowardly and said it should be condemned by supporters of press freedom around the world. Three journalists were injured in the blast in the BBC's office.

Meanwhile, the state government has again appealed to the abductors of the four foreign tourists to release the hostages without further delay. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the abductors should respond to the worldwide appeals. The kidnappers have not contacted the government authorities for the last three days.

'Separatist Group' Unveils Hostage Rescue Plan

BK0809091795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 8 (AFP) — A powerful Kashmiri Muslim separatist group said Friday [8 September] that guerrillas from four militant outfits had been ordered to track down and rescue four Western tourists held hostage for two months.

Zainul Abidin, the "chief commander" of the Al-Fatah Force, a pro-Pakistan separatist group, condemned the kidnapping of the Western tourists by the renegade Muslim separatist group Al-Faran and called for their release.

"Like-minded groups have drawn up a coordinated strategy to bring out the hostages," said the chief of the Al-Fatah Force, one of the most powerful of the dozens of militant groups battling Indian rule in Kashmir.

Abidin, wearing a mask which left only his eyes exposed, said militants from his organization and three other major groups — the Harkat-ul-Ansar, Hizbullah Jamiat-ul Mojahedin and Hizbul Mojahedin — have "gone to the woods to rescue the four."

"Once they (the kidnappers and their captives) have been traced they will be ringed by mojahedin," he said. "It will be decided later how the four would be brought out.

"The priority will be the safety of the hostages and no step will be taken that will endanger the lives of the captives," he stressed.

Abidin, who was accompanied by eight militants armed with AK-47 automatic rifles, said: "So far we have not had any luck finding them but we are at it despite the cold weather in the woods."

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Donald Hutchings, 42, were kidnapped on July 4 near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

German Dirk Hasert, 26, and Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, were seized in the same area four days later.

Ostro was beheaded by the kidnappers last month and a note found on his body warned the other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian Government failed to release 15 Muslim militants from prison.

The Indian authorities have ruled out releasing any prisoners and warned that any rescue operation was risky and could pose a danger to the lives of the hostages.

Abidin reiterated allegations by other Kashmiri Muslim groups that Al-Faran was the creation of Indian intelligence agencies and said the kidnappings were carried out "to defame our freedom movement."

"Had they been freedom fighters they would never have indulged in such an anti-movement act," he said of the previously unknown Al- Faran.

The Al-Fatah Force chief said the kidnappers "will be punished as per the laws of Islam" if caught. "They have killed an innocent tourist and they will have to pay for it," he said.

Indian officials have expressed concern over a break in contact with the kidnappers and worsening weather in

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the Himalayan mountains where they are believed to be held.

Kashmir government officials in this state summer capital said Thursday that the last communication with Al-Faran had been on Monday through intermediaries.

Indian officials allege that Al-Faran is actually the Harkat-ul- Ansar but the Harkat has denied having any links to the kidnappers and has urged them to free the hostages.

The Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Iranian Envoy

LD0709155895 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Sep 7 (IRNA) — India's Minister for Science and Technology Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi [title as received] and Iranian Ambassador to India 'Ali Reza Sheykh 'Attar today reviewed cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology.

Agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between Iran and India during President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's India visit in April this year figured during the discussion.

The two sides also exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in satellite production.

The Indian minister told the Iranian ambassador that India will very soon make necessary arrangements to provide 20 seats for Iranian scholars at Ph.D. level in various Indian universities and research centers.

Sheykh 'Attar handed over a letter to the Indian minister from Iranian Minister of Higher Education and Culture Dr. Mohammad Hashemi-Golpayegani. The letter invites Chaturvedi to visit Iran.

Report Addresses Plane Project With PRC, ROK

BK0609104195 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 29 Aug 95 p 3

[PTI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is likely to invest $200-500 million, along with China and South Korea, in the Asian 100 seater passenger aircraft project.

The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd [HAL] chairman, Mr R N Sharma signed an MoU [memorandum of understanding] on behalf of India, while Mr Zhu Yuli, president of the Aviation Industries of China (AVIC) inked for China at Shanghai, last night for the $2 billion project.

The first aircraft is expected to take to skies by the turn of the century and is to be christened as Asian Express, sources here said today.

China and South Korea have already signed an MoU and these three countries would seek a fourth western partner for engine and avionics technology sources said, adding that Boeing and Airbus are strong contenders. The final decision would be taken in the next few months, they said.

Though equity sharing details were not immediately available, indications are that India would be a minority partner while AVIC would assume the leadership role.

Sources said a joint team would be set up soon to start the project study by October 1995, and the equity portion would be decided after the completion of the study.

The major aspect in aircraft manufacture is frame development and HAL, is said to be well advanced in this.

Sources said no decision had been taken as yet regarding where the aircraft would be assembled.

However, indications are that the assembly would take place at the AVIC's Shanghai plant.

Boeing will be sending its representatives to China next month as it is a strong bidder for the engine and avionics of the aircraft.

The aircraft would mainly cater to the Asian region with the goal of breaking into the international market in future.

China, where air traffic is forecast to double to 80 million passengers a year by 2000, has already made a commitment to buy the 100-seater aircraft.

Antidumping Duty Imposed on PRC Potassium

BK0709105495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has imposed an antidumping duty on potassium permanganate imported from China. An official release in New Delhi says the duty of 5,992 rupees per ton from this month has been imposed on the basis of the findings of the designated authority. However, imports by cent [100] percent export-oriented units and units in the export processing zones have been exempted from the duty.

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Article Discusses Government's Economic Policy

BK0409162795 Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Aug 95 p 8

[Article by Nikhil Chakravartty: "Changing Winds"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Winds seem to have changed direction. Any comparison with the situation today with what it looked like last year or the year before bears out that we have entered the storm zone in the management of the nation's economic affairs. This is becoming clearer every day even to an observer unlettered in the mysteries of higher economies.

However much the pundits quibble about the dimension of economics, the common man judges it by the yardstick of how any new decision in economic management is going to affect his life and living. For a country where more than a third of the population lives below the so-called poverty line and more than half in a state of being underprivileged, the criterion of judging the viability of any economic decision is, how much and in what manner the vast majority of the population is going to be affected. The economy of a country is thus related to politics; hence it is safer to talk about political economy than of economics, rarefied in the cerebral laboratory of the egg-head.

Measuring today's situation with what prevailed last year, one cannot help noting the angry and at times boisterous turbulence that is nowadays breaking out over the government's decisions on the economic front in pursuing the reforms model taken, wholesale from the World Bank's mother dairy. No doubt those who initiated the economic reforms programme in our country four years ago were honourable men and some of them can certainly claim that what they sought to do are in the interest of the country as such. Even in the years of the Rajiv Raj one heard loud whispers about the need for the government restricting itself to promoting the well-being of the upper 11 per cent of the country's economic group hoping that such measures by themselves would help the rest of the 90 per cent. This trickle-down theory was at the back of practically all the measures of economic liberalisation undertaken in the first four years of the present government.

When the controls were removed — heralding the end of what Rajaji had called licence-permit raj — there was welcome appreciation on all sides. For, the elaborate system of licences and permits bred corruption on one side and imposed controls which entrusted very wide economic powers in the hands of the bureaucrats who became the new maharajahs. One could discern some degree of concern at the reckless way the Finance Ministry burra sahibs [high officials] went about disinvesting even profit-making public sector undertakings which touched off suspicions about corrupt practices involved. The objections however came from only a section of the government's critics while others joined in the chorus in favour of Mr. Manmohan Singh's economic reforms.

This powerful pro-reform wave began to subside when the government went in for a reckless open-door policy towards foreign investments. Not only at the level of policy formulation but even at the diplomatic level, the government took a strong pro-foreign investment line, openly inviting multinationals to come into the Indian market. The so-called Asian Tigers were held aloft for emulation, little realising that these so-called "Tigers" had registered economic growth at the cost of political democracy. While the government in its campaign to popularise its line of inviting the foreign investor assured that this would help the country to get the up-to-date technology that the foreign investor would be bringing, in actual practice very little of advanced technology has come in with the foreign investor.

The first rumblings from the Indian corporate sector came in the shape of the demand for "even playing fields" — in other words, no special favours to the foreign investor invading the Indian market. The biggest blow to Indian entrepreneurship and national self-respect came with the Enron deal, which was pushed through the Cabinet with the hi-fi blitz campaign within the government by the Finance Ministry officials, the very same people who have been pushing the World Bank line. The thrust of the objection to the Enron deal has been first, on the high cost of electricity that the project will produce; secondly, it would not buy available Indian machinery for the project but import them all from abroad; thirdly, the Central Government has gone out of its way to offer guaranteed returns for the Enron investment which has shocked Indian opinion. No section of the Indian corporate sector has ever been offered any guaranteed returns by the government, which has readily offered it to Enron. Besides, there was the mysterious provision in the Enron budget for quite a big sum of several million rupees for "educating the Indian public" about the benefits that would come from the deal. In plain language, the Indian public has come to suspect that this amount has been ear marked for handsome kickbacks. The shade of the Bofors.

The rest is old story. The Congress(I), losing Maharashtra in the Assembly election, has now to face the exposure by the Review Committee set up by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena Government which is committed to the "swadeshi jagran" [awakening for self-reliance] campaign initiated by the RSS [Rashtriya

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Swayamsewak Sangh] against the depredations of the multinationals as per the Centre's economic reforms policy. This has snowballed into a mass stir which has attracted support from a large section of the public — far beyond the camp-followers of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. Inside Parliament and outside, the attack on the Enron deal is being voiced by the Janata Dal and the Left as also by the Congress(I) dissidents — none of which can be regarded as the supporter of the BJP.

The Enron deal has touched off a veritable cascade of mass campaigns against the government's profligate policy of propitiating the multinationals. There are indications that powerful protest movements are in the offing against the entry of giant multinationals in the telecommunication sector. The campaign against Cargill and Cogentrix are about to start. Even in the Left- ruled West Bengal, the State Government could not hand over one of the old hotels to a French company as it had to agree to the workers' demand for a joint company between the State and the trade unions concerned.

Misfortunes do not arrive single-handed. Along with this new upsurge against surrender to the multinationals has come the mid- term appraisal of the Planning Commission which has carefully reviewed the impact of the World Bank reforms on different sectors of the Indian economy. When this mid-term review document came up for finalisation in the Planning Commission, the minister and his supporters took to stonewalling by insisting that the document must get the comments on its conclusions from different ministries. It is now learnt that barring the Finance Ministry, no other ministry has contested the Planning Commission's conclusions. This is naturally a matter of acute embarrassment for the Finance Ministry pundits who alone have been holding forth in the last four years about the supposed benefit of the economic reforms.

While the Planning Commission's midterm review document has found its way to the press, it is worth noting that it has shown that with the economic reforms, the percentage of population below the poverty line has gone up — in other words, mass impoverishment is on the increase. Secondly, unemployment opportunities have gone down in real terms. Exports have not picked up. The public sector disinvestment has been injurious and wasteful. Allocations to the social sector have gone down under the regime of the economic reforms.

It is understandable that the government should feel nervous at these unpalatable disclosures about the impact of its economic reforms programme. Particularly this is so at a time when it has to face the ordeal of a general election. It is in this background one finds that the prime minister has been publicising the promise of large financial allocations for various schemes to placate public opinion. All these promised measures which are supposed to serve as an anti-poverty drive are likely to entail a heavy outlay from the exchequer without any corresponding benefit for the underprivileged. A clear case of panicky populism to ward off the sombre apprehensions about the impact of the economic reforms on the vulnerable sections of the people. And these are the sections which constitute the foundation-base of our democratic polity. Here is a case of the imperatives of political economy seriously exposing the negative impact of the hastily pushed through economic reforms. An ominous twilight for the government on the economic front.

Iran

Imam Yazdi Sermon Assails U.S. Gulf Presence

LD0809110895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Yazdi, Tehran's interim Friday imam [and head of the Judiciary], described His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks last week about Islamic, political, and social issues as very instructive. He stressed that his eminence's support for setting up open courts is a great help to the independent work of the Judiciary and has removed many obstacles in its way.

He pointed out the need for formulating laws about various issues in today's society and said that the absence of defined laws on certain issues will lead to problems in handing down verdicts.

Referring to the esteemed leader's message to the nationwide prayers congress, he stressed the importance of congregational prayers.

He also referred to recent events in the region. Strongly criticizing the United States' military expedition to the Persian Gulf, he said: The security of the region should be maintained by the countries in the region, and foreigners have no part in it.

He said the continuation of clashes in Afghanistan is very regrettable and expressed hope that the nation which defeated the Soviet Union superpower will be able to resolve its internal problems, and that security in the region will not be threatened due to the clashes inside Afghanistan.

He said the Iranian nongovernmental organizations' delegation at the women's conference in China is very active and effective, and said: As the delegation of Iranian women stressed in interviews and speeches, that

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which does not conform to Islamic precepts will not be endorsed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the occasion of the international day of the campaign for the eradication of illiteracy he described the performance of the literacy movement as outstanding. He also honored the memory of the 17 Shahrivar [7 September 1979 — Black Friday] martyrs, the indefatigable scholar the late Ayatollah Taleqani, and the martyred commander of Islam Sani'-Khani.

Further on Yazdi Sermon

LD0809133195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, at Tehran University 8 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I start my next topic with the following questions: What is the United States doing here? What is the reason behind the presence of such a large U.S. contingent in the Persian Gulf? What do they want here?

They say they are here to safeguard security in the region. No matter how you see the issue and by what criteria you use to assess it, the conclusion is the same; That is to say that the U.S. presence in the region leads to nothing but the creation of insecurity, worry, and anxiety.

We officially declare that the affairs of this region must be managed by its own inhabitants and that foreigners have no right to have a presence, in particular a military one, in this area. [crowd chants in support]

What is happening now in Afghanistan is a cause for regret and, one must say, shame and embarrassment. For how long must the power struggle go on and what is the extent of foreign intervention in that country? The other question is how can a country which once managed to defeat a superpower now be unable to manage its own affairs? Every day a new problem comes up and more destruction befalls that country.

We really hope that they will adhere to Islam and stop this power struggle. Full consensus can never be reached on all details. Do not destroy the country any more. For the sake of God, leave your personal desires and ambitions aside and come together and think of what is common among you. In this way, you will be able to run the country and begin its reconstruction.

Do not cause any more destruction to this large country and do not make any more Muslims homeless. It was because of this that our interior minister had to close the borders and ban the entry of any more refugees to Iran. This is despite the fact that the settlement of the refugees was making good progress but now things have unfortunately gone back to square one.

However, on the basis of humanitarian considerations, as the esteemed interior minister has already announced, if we are going to set up a refugee camp it will have to be on the other side of the border in Afghan territory. We can no longer accept more problems.

What is happening in Bosnia is also regrettable. We hope that the contact group meeting currently taking place in Geneva and attended by our esteemed foreign minister and officials from Islamic states, can reach proper decisions on the Bosnian issue and at least resolve to lift the arms embargo and facilitate the access of aid convoys.

On the issue of Palestine and Lebanon, as we have repeatedly said, peace and calm cannot and will not prevail there until what rightfully belongs to the people is given back to them and the occupied lands are returned to their owners. [passage omitted]

Report on Foreign Assistance to Nuclear Program

TA0809125895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p10

[Report by Douglas Davis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran embarked on its nuclear weapons program during its war with Iraq in the mid-Eighties and, despite its severe economic constraints, is currently spending $1 billion a year on various nuclear weapons projects.

Taken together, the program is known as "The Great Secret Project" among Tehran's ruling elite, who are convinced that the acquisition of nuclear capability is the most important strategic guarantee of their survival.

In addition to the Russian agreements, the Iranians have received assistance from both Pakistan and China.

They also signed a secret deal with the former Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan in 1992 to purchase four nuclear warheads, a deal that was reportedly foiled by CIA agents.

Hundreds of foreign technicians, mostly Russian and Chinese, are already working on nuclear research in Iran, where they are also training Iranian specialists, supervising the construction of facilities and setting up nuclear reactors.

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Syrian, Turkish Officials Attend Meeting on Iraq

LD0809093895 Tehran IRNA in English
0758 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 8 (IRNA) — The Iranian, Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers met behind closed doors here Friday [8 September] to discuss the latest developments in northern Iraq and its impacts on the future of that country.

Speaking to IRNA before the meeting, the seventh of its kind, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati hoped that it would help promote peace and stability in the region.

He stressed the significant role Tehran, Ankara and Damascus played in expansion of peace in the region.

Erdal Inonu from Turkey and Faruq al-Shar' from Syria are also participating in the meeting which is to reiterate the territorial integrity of Iraq.

The United Nations declared a no-fly zone in northern Iraq following the Persian Gulf war in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Since the said area lacks sovereignty and this would affect the national security of Iran, Syria and Turkey, the three states decided to discuss the issue in regular joint meetings.

Velayati, Inonu and al-Shar' are to attend a joint press conference this afternoon.

Velayati Stresses Territorial Integrity

LD0809101595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The seventh round of meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey began in Tehran today.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, in his opening remarks, stressed the importance of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity. He said one must reject and condemn any attempt by foreigners to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

According to a Central News Unit report, the foreign affairs minister underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination of efforts between Iran, Syria,and Turkey, especially in the area of regional security.

Moreover, he criticized any move which might bring outside influence into regional issues, in particular the problem in northern Iraq.

Cases of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN

LD0709134395 Tehran IRNA in English
0934 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations hq., New York, Sep. 7, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi reported 28 cases of Iraqi cease-fire violations between May 2-31 to the U.N.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Kharazi mentioned shooting at Iranian territory and border posts, violation of Iran's air space and littoral areas as well as capturing Iran's military personnel and civilians as instances of Iraq's violation of the terms of cease-fire.

Other cases included trafficking of Iraqi forces and vehicles in no man's lands, conducting engineering activities, digging canal, reinforcement of positions and setting up of barbed wires.

The letter which was circulated as a document of the Security Council Wednesday [6 September] added that a group of Iraqi forces surrounded Garm Ab region in no man's land on May 23, set a tent afire and took captive the soldiers stationed in the region.

They also fired an 81-millimetre mortar shell at the Iranian border post which landed near the post.

Moreover, the letter referred to two cases of activities by anti- revolutionary forces in one of which some 27 anti-revolutionary elements crossed border and penetrated about 12.5 kilometres into the Iranian territory and entering a village in Mahabad, in northwest Iran, abducted three residents of the village and took them away.

The letter also mentioned four cases of violation of the air space of no-man's land by Iraqi aircraft and another by a helicopter as well as trafficking of 22 motor boats with a total of 65 crew and passengers in Arvand River as other cases of Iraqi cease-fire violation.

Support Reported for OIC Muslim Government Summit

LD0509220295 Tehran IRNA in English
1907 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 5, IRNA — Iran agrees with the proposal of the prime minister of Bangladesh for an extraordinary summit conference of Muslim governments, Asghar Manusi, deputy head of the Iranian mission at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), told OIC Secretary General Hamed Algabid in Jeddah on Tuesday [5 September].

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He also told Algabid that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati would participate in the extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers and defense ministers of the contact group of the OIC on Bosnia in the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on September 14-15.

Iran, along with Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Maghreb and Senegal is a member of the OIC contact group on Bosnia, and has taken an active part for a solution to the plight of Europe's native Muslim population.

Velayati Comments on Plans for Bosnia Situation

LD0709224995 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran 7 Sep IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters here tonight that no plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina would be acceptable unless it warrants the political independence and territorial integrity of that repuolic.

He said war criminals having committed crimes against the Bosnian people must be brought to trial. He added that any peace plan tending to condone the aggressors in their criminal perpetrations would be unacceptable to the world people and therefore impracticable.

Velayati, who is here for the meeting between contact groups of Muslim and western countries on the Bosnian crisis, said that as far as the Islamic Republic is concerned one factor for arriving at peace would be to improve the defence capability of the Bosnians.

He said the western governments had failed to live up to many of their commitments in relation to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but that despite the belated cooperation by them Islamic Iran would support any plan for ending the human tragedy in B-H.

Velayati said Muslim states would obviously continue to support the wronged people of Bosnia both materially and militarily as long as there is no assurance of doing them the justice that they deserve.

He said once aggression against Bosnian Muslims has been strongly suppressed it would have helped the establishment of peace not only in Europe but throughout the world for that matter.

Iran, Senegal, Maghreb, Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan comprise the contact group of the organization of the Islamic conference while the western contact group is made up of France, Germany, Russia, Britain and the U.S.

Ministry Expresses Concern Over Afghan Situation

LD0709154095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following recent developments in the west of Afghanistan and its repercussions, the deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, talking to a reporter of the daily IRAN, commented on the recent developments in Afghanistan.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is sensitive to any development which may create problems for the security of Afghanistan and peace on its borders with Iran.

The foreign ministry spokesman said that Iran will not interfere in the recent developments in Afghanistan and that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that war is not a suitable method for settling the Afghanistan problems.

The foreign ministry spokesman expressed hope that the Afghans will stop the and bloodshed and that they should rather help each other to save the country from the present critical situation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to render any help to Afghanistan to this end, the spokesman further noted.

Spokesman Calls For End to Afghan Infighting

LD0809150295 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 8 (IRNA) — Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi here friday [8 September] urged all belligerent groups in Afghanistan to end the infighting and start negotiations for finding a political solution to the crisis.

Underlining that feuding and bloodletting is harmful for peace and stability in Afghanistan, Mohammadi said the Islamic Republic of Iran is closely following Afghan developments especially the events near its borders.

He said Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) can live up to its neutral principles by playing a more active role in finding a political solution to the Afghan crisis.

The Islamic Republic of Iran favours peace and stability in Afghanistan so that the way could be prepared for reconstruction, economic development and cultural growth of the Afghan people, Mohammadi concluded.

Velayati, Bangladesh Counterpart Discuss Ties

LD0309174695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Farooq Sobhan, the Bangladeshi prime minister's special envoy and that country's for-

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eign secretary [name and title as heard], today met our Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Expressing enthusiasm about the forthcoming visit to Dhaka by our country's president, the Bangladeshi envoy declared the readiness of his country's government and Muslim people to warmly welcome President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Referring to the need to expand cooperation among the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] member states and Asian countries, he stated his country's willingness to expand ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Velayati expressed satisfaction about the good cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the need for cooperation among the Asian countries and the ECO member states. He hoped that the ties between the two countries will expand further through seeking new ways of expanding them especially in the cultural and economic spheres.

Ambassador Discusses Ties With Kuwaiti Officials

LD0609115695 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Gholamali San'ati conferred with Kuwaiti Interior Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim [al-Sabah] and Deputy Foreign Minister Salman Majid Shahin separately on Tuesday [5 September].

Bilateral ties and the way to explore fresh avenues for mutual relations were discussed in the meetings held between San'ati and Kuwaiti officials.

In the meetings, the two sides exchanged views on developments in the region particularly Iraq's status quo as well as the coming visit to Tehran of Kuwaiti first deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

UK Official's Visit Seen as 'Opportunity' for Ties

LD0609195495 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IRNA — The arrival of former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath in Tehran Wednesday [6 September] holds the opportunity of an improvement in the soured diplomatic ties between Britain and Iran.

The UK's elder statesman is the first British parliamentarian to embark on a mission to Iran since a delegation visit in 1986 helped pave the way towards better relations, which were setback again by the dispute over Salman Rushdie's blasphemy against Islam in 1989.

His week-long stay in Tehran is officially classed as a private visit, but he could be expected on his return to brief the foreign office on his reported scheduled meetings with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other Iranian officials.

Sir Edward, at the age of 79, is Britain's eldest statesman serving his 45th year in parliament. During his extensive travels, he made a private visit to Baghdad in 1990 to mediate on the release of 100 hostages held following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Three years later, he returned again to Iraq to help secure the release of three British prisoners jailed for illegally entering the country.

His visit to Iran follows repeated attempts by the Britain-Iran parliamentary group to send a delegation to Iran over the past few years aimed at opening the way to improve ties between the two countries.

The former conservative leader's visit also comes after moves by the European Union to cultivate better trade ties by launching an initiative to depoliticise the six-year old Rushdie dispute that continues to be used to sour relations.

During his premiership between 1970 and 1974, Sir Edward was accredited with leading Britain into the then European Community and has since stayed a staunch supporter of the 15-nation bloc.

Radio Reports on New Foreign Immigration Policy

LD0309105095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] From now on, foreign nationals will only be given asylum within the framework of international regulations, and then only in emergency cases. Also the settlement of new refugees in the cities will be prevented.

Speaking at a seminar with the participation of the heads of foreign nationals and immigrants bureaus in Mashhad, Interior Minister Besharati emphasized that immigration for economic reasons is not acceptable. He said that the residence permits of immigrants who hold temporary permits will not be extended under any circumstances. He added: Such immigrants will not be allowed to travel to Iranian cities and villages, and they will be settled in camps if they do not return to their home countries.

Mr. Besharati also said that immigrants who hold permanent residence permits can remain in Iran for the time being. If they wish to return home, they will be provided with the necessary facilities.

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The interior minister spoke of the needs of refugees, and called on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for assistance in this regard.

'Editorial' Views New Refugee Policy

LD0709141595 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 7, IRNA — Officials at Interior Ministry must remain strict in their new policy of not granting asylum to new applicants regardless of their nationality, wrote the daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday [7 September].

The English-language paper was commenting in its editorial on Iran's new refugee policy and its recent decision to provide facilities to the war-stricken neighbors within their own territories.

Iran's resources are limited, and it is overpopulated, argued the paper adding "new refugees will overburden civic services."

Referring to the fact that Tehran has, so far, hosted millions of refugees from its neighboring countries including Iraq, Central Asian republics and Afghanistan, the paper criticized neither the U.N. nor other humanitarian bodies provide the necessary assistance to Iran for handling the problem of refugees.

"Iran, however, did not shirk its humanitarian, Islamic duty," it stressed.

Iranian authorities did not set up special camps for the refugees, allowing them to live in Iran "as their second home," said the paper adding as a result, the displaced, war-stricken citizens of neighboring countries found in Iran a better refuge than in any other country.

"On the one hand, the new policy will discourage the influx of refugees and, on the other, it will reduce several problems that are inherent with refugees," concluded the paper.

Minister Says Country Prepared To Join WTO

LD0809100795 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 8 Sep (IRNA) — Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran is prepared to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The senior official told the English-language IRAN NEWS in an interview printed in its "Economic Review" that Iran's present regulations permitted the country to join the WTO which he termed as a complicated legal/political institution. "Those who join it must accept some obligations and, at the same time, they enjoy certain privileges," he said.

Zarif noted that the international trade and economy has become a global affair and it was a fact that with the enlargement of the WTO's scope of mandate which resulted from the Uruguay Round and multinational trade negotiations, countries have to seriously consider their membership in this international financial institute.

While internationalization of trade provided some privileges, it also caused problems, stated the official adding, however, naturally all nations who wanted to be active participants in the world economy should join the WTO.

"By joining the WTO, we must try to acquire an equitable share for our development by taking advantage of rights provided for developing nations," Zarif said adding, "the Islamic Republic of Iran always considers international economic realities and the council of ministers follows the same policy in its deliberations."

The paper also quoted Zarif as saying that the question of joining the WTO and undertaking obligations imposed by that organization must be duly evaluated from different angles.

"One positive side of joining the WTO is participation in international economic decisionmaking which is necessary for every nation, and we believe the Islamic Republic of Iran must be present in all international circles when political, economic, social and cultural decisions are being made," the deputy foreign minister noted.

Zarif added it was necessary for the country to consider all the different aspects of such a membership which would bring forth many obligations such as industrial, service, agricultural and intellectual property rights and that "we have duly considered all these issues."

"The ministry of commerce is responsible for making a specialized analysis of Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization. So far the ministry has done a good job and has submitted a comprehensive report to the government. The foreign ministry has also been instructed to consider the different aspects of such a membership in cooperation with other organizations in the country. This work started one and a half months ago."

Concerning the impact of WTO membership on solving the economic problems of the nation, Zarif said: "The WTO is an international framework for solving commercial differences between nations. This is the positive aspect of the WTO which prevents commercial wars. Because by legalizing commercial ties, we will have a chance to predict the regional and international economic developments, an important factor for the economic development of a nation."

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"But aside from legalization, the WTO cannot advance or hinder the economic growth of a country. What matters for the economic progress of a nation is sound economic programs and proper methods of implementation of such policies, not the question of joining or not joining the WTO," he explained.

He said Iran has done detailed studies for joining the WTO. However, to become a member of the organization, Iran should follow a certain process. "We have not yet started this process but will begin soon," he noted.

Saying that the council of ministers was studying the question of WTO membership, Zarif added the report submitted to the government has been reviewed once and by forming a special committee of the cabinet the matter would soon be finalized.

"This represents the precision and care of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in studying international issues which may bring about long term obligations for the nation," Zarif concluded.

Wheat Production To Rise 4 Million Tons Annually

LD0309195295 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arak, central Prov., Sep 3 (IRNA) — Iran's wheat output would reach 15.5 million tons by the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-2000), showing a rise of four million tons annually.

Deputy agriculture minister for cultivation Mohammad Hasan Shariatmadar announced here Sunday [3 September] that the country's annual wheat output had reached 11.5 million tons at present from 7,300,000 tons at the onset of the First Five-Year Plan (1989-1994).

Shariatmadar said that the increase in the country's wheat output in the first plan saved the country dlrs. 1.15 billion.

Funeral Service Reportedly Ends in Confrontation

95LA0363D London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The funeral service in Tehran for Dr. Sanjabi ended in a confrontation between those attending the rites and the thugs sent to disrupt the ceremony with support from the government, and for the first time in 14 years the people beat the thugs and drove them out of the hall where the ceremony was being held (14 years ago army commandos used commando tactics to drive out hezbollahs who were trying to disrupt a speech by Abol-Hasan Bani Sadr at the University of Tehran).

The attack on the ceremony in memory of Dr. Sanjabi took place despite the fact that permission to hold it had been obtained from the Ministry of the Interior. Just when Dr. Sa'id Fatemi, a leader of the National Front, had reached the halfway point in his speech on Sanjabi's services, the thugs, uttering obscenities, stopped the speech, but the crowd in attendance at the Safi 'Alishah monastery, the site of the ceremony, answered them with cries of "Praise to Mosadeq" and "Praise to Sanjabi."

The hezbollahs then resorted to physical attacks but were met with a response in kind and were obliged to withdraw. Despite all this, a power failure at the monastery kept Sa'id Fatemi from finishing his speech and Hojjat ol-Eslam Monaqebi from preaching the sermon.

However, the people remained in the monastery and on the surrounding streets until about 2000. According to reports received from Tehran, the crowds numbered "several thousand." The police, who were absent from the scene for some time, arrived hours after the clash. Their absence was interpreted to mean that they wanted to give the semi-government hezbollahs a free hand to break up the ceremony.

In a "warning" published in Tehran, the National Party of Iran said among other things that "the president of the republic is reminded that even under the present deficient Constitution, the chief executive is responsible and has sworn to defend the dignity of individuals and the legal entities that have been recognized in the Constitution, and he is responsible to the nation within the prerogatives and duties he has under the Constitution and ordinary laws. "

This "warning" states that "henceforth any kind of misbehavior, rudeness, harassment, or aggression against the people, especially prominent political figures, will be interpreted as having come from the president of the republic himself, the country's leader."

Daryush Foruhar, leader of the National Party of Iran, gave an interview to the Voice of America radio. He was asked whether the clash between the members of the National Party of Iran and the ruffians can be interpreted as a "change in policy." He answered: "The National Party of Iran has always stood up to attacks, although sometimes this standing up might not be pleasant."

He added: "There is no longer any room in this afflicted country for made-to-order thuggery. According to three articles of the Constitution—and of course the Constitution is full of defects, we do not support it, and it is capital used by those in power—the president is responsible for the executive power. Thus it is not

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inappropriate if we say that he must answer personally for all this uproar. Of course the minister of the interior, who is always hemming and hawing, and the police commander, who says something every day about putting something down here and there, must explain why there was not even one police agent assigned in the center of Tehran to a gathering of several thousand people, of which they had been previously notified. In any case, I seriously want the minister of the interior and the police commander to answer for this thuggery, and if they cannot, they should resign."

Foruhar concluded: "If the president of the republic cannot manage this country, then that is enough! What kind of management of the country is this? It would be better to say that in Iran there is no government."

There was a report from Tehran that in Kermanshah, the regime's agents prevented memorial ceremonies for Dr. Karim Sanjabi.

Pakistan

Officials Describe Attack on Kabul Embassy, Staff

Foreign Office Head Comments on Attack

BK0709151495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The staff of the Pakistan Embassy which was injured during an attack on the embassy building in Kabul yesterday was flown to Islamabad by a special PAF [Pakistan Air Force] plane this morning. It included the dead body of Mr. Pyara Masih, a member of the Pakistan Embassy who was killed during the attack. Pakistan Ambassador to Kabul Qazi Humayun Khan, Military Attache Brigadier Ashraf Afridi, and two other diplomats who were seriously injured have been shifted to CMH [Combined Military Hospital] Rawalpindi. Pakistan television correspondent Muzammal Ahmad Khan reports that the condition of the ambassador is stated to be stable.

The Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was attacked yesterday by a crowd of 3,000. It was later set ablaze. We have with us Mr. Tauheed Ahmad, director general of Foreign Office, for his comments over the incident.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Tauheed, perhaps you can tell us what exactly happened at the Kabul embassy.

[Tauheed] It was yesterday at about 1100 in the morning that we in the ministry got the first report that things are very serious in our embassy in Kabul. Although we had indications in the last few days, we had conveyed our concern to the Afghan authorities that they needed to beef up the security in our embassy. But this message of yesterday at about 1100, and it was interrupted, said that the embassy was under an attack. And now, after the people returned this morning, we have the full picture that something like 3,000 people broke open the gates. They had overpowered the local security. They broke open the gates and ransacked the premises. It is a rather large premises, something like 26 acres of land and with several structures. Each one of them was systematically destroyed, burned, and something like 25 to 28 of our embassy's personnel were beaten up, each one of them. And it was a horrifying action.

[Correspondent] But Pakistan and Afghanistan have always maintained very friendly relations. Why do you think this development has occurred?

[Tauheed] Our relations with Afghanistan are centuries old. The two people have always been very close to each other. We share so much—not just being neighbors, and history, and culture, language, and several things. So, I do not think there is any problem between the people of the two countries. This problem, I think, has risen because of some factions who are trying to damage our relations. It is our conviction that it is not the will of the people of Afghanistan that was reflected in the events of yesterday. This is certainly a very small group of people. And we are investigating, and I think we will arrive at certain decision after a dispassionate analysis of what has happened.

[Correspondent] We hope so. Thank you, Mr. Tauheed. [end recording]

Ambassador in Kabul Gives Details

BK0809052595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of Senate and the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, visited Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul and other members of the mission hospitalized in Rawalpindi after being injured during an attack in the Afghan capital on Wednesday [6 September]. Speaking on the occasion, he condemned the incident and described it as against the established diplomatic norms.

Giving details of the unfortunate incident, Ambassador Qazi Humayun said an unruly mob of about 3,000 people attacked the embassy, set the residential portion on fire, and ransacked the whole building. As a result, an elderly member of the Pakistan mission lost his life and several others, including he himself, received severe injuries.

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President Leghari Departs on Turkmenistan Visit

BK0609065795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari left Islamabad this morning for Ashkhabad on a three-day official visit to Turkmenistan. During his stay, the president will hold talks with President Saparmurad Niyazov on increasing bilateral economic cooperation and exchange views on regional and international issues of interest to the two countries, including situation in occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

In a statement before his departure, the president said Pakistan is committed to the strengthening of the bonds of amity and friendship with the Central Asian Republics including Turkmenistan. He said during his visit, he and President Niyazov would build up on the understanding they reached earlier to construct an edifice of beneficial cooperation in line with the aspirations of our people and the needs of the region. The president said Turkmenistan is a very important country, rich in resources. The two countries have already signed several agreements including an MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] on the establishment of a natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. He said efforts are also being made to develop railway and road links with Turkmenistan through Afghanistan.

Bhutto Views Kashmir, Indian Ties, MQM Talks

BK0409142995 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 95 p 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MS BENAZIR Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, has alleged that the Al Faran group—the focus of Kashmir's current hostage crisis—is a creation of Indian intelligence agencies.

The group, Ms Bhutto said, contacted the British high commission in Islamabad by telephone. Pakistani telephone directories are not available in the valley, Ms Bhutto claimed, and the number could only have been provided to Al Faran by the Indian Government.

Speaking to Karan Thapar of Eyewitness, Ms Bhutto denied any complicity in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. She also accused the Indian army of burning down the Charar-e-Sharief shrine earlier this year, revealing that a military officer in command during Operation Bluestar in 1984 led the supposed assault on the Kashmiri monument.

Excerpts from the wide-ranging interview are reproduced below.

Q: When you first came to power there were high hopes that there would be a change for the better between India and Pakistan. That hasn't happened, and many feel personally let down by you. How do you respond to them?

A: Well there was a big difference between when I first became Prime Minister and when I became Prime Minister second time. In 1988, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister of India and he was of the postpartition generation.

He had had tragedy in his family as much as I have had tragedy in mine and I think there was a sincere effort by both the prime ministers and their governments to proceed forward, to solve the outstanding issues between our two countries. Mr Rajiv Gandhi never blamed us for what was going on in Kashmir.

Q: With respect prime minister, in his time nothing much was happening in Kashmir.

A: I remember seeing an Indian documentary in June '89 or June 1990 which showed the upheaval and the uprising in Jammu and Kashmir.

Q: By then he was out of office. It all began during the winter of '89-90.

A: I don't think so. I think it began earlier with the changes that were taking place in the world. And at that time I remember there was no Pakistan bashing from India's side.

When I became Prime Minister again in October, 1993 I went to the Commonwealth conference and I met Mr Dixit, the Foreign Secretary, and I said "Mr Dixit we must do something about reducing the tension between our two countries" and we agreed to start Foreign Secretaries' talks which were scheduled for the first week of January.

Lo and behold as soon as we had decided to have talks, the Hazratbal siege took place and people criticised our government for showing weakness in agreeing for talks. India has misinterpreted this gesture of Pakistan. Well we tried to make a go of the talks but when Mr Dixit came here the Indian side were simply not prepared to talk about Kashmir.

We didn't give up. We decided to exchange non-papers. The Indians rejected our non-papers. We rejected their six non-papers.

But we said alright, let's sit down and discuss all the rejected papers to which India didn't agree. When the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit was taking place we didn't sabotage it. The SAARC was unable to meet when one of the member-states played difficult. We could've done that. SAARC was being held in New Delhi. We didn't seek to embarrass New Delhi.

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Our President went to New Delhi. But lo and behold as soon as our President returned the terrible Charar-e-Sharif incident took place. So somehow the message the Pakistanis are getting from India is that India is not prepared to sit down and have serious negotiations.

Q: Prime Minister, you have raised a lot of issues and I'll like to try and take them up one by one but at the core of Indo-Pak relations is the Kashmir problem. I'm not talking about the disputed claims of territory on either side, I'm talking about what India considers your government's support and arming of Kashmiri militants and therefore through them support for terrorism.

A: We do not arm or train or allow the arming or training of any Kashmiris on our soil.

Q: Former Army Chief Mirza Aslam Beg said so in an interview to Selig Harrison, the American scholar.

A: I've not seen Gen. Beg's article and I doubt that a former Chief of the Army Staff could make such an irresponsible statement.

Q: Almost every Western journalist who operates from this part of the world believes that the Pakistani Government is arming and supporting militants and through them supporting their activities, often terrorist activities.

A: You see we believe that the Kashmiris themselves want the implementation of the UN resolution. Therefore when the Kashmiris themselves believe in something when there is tremendous political support, then what is the need for Pakistan to go and train people and to arm people. We would not do that but we would certainly give our full political support.

I'll tell you that if India believes that this is happening why don't we agree to the enhancement of the UN peacekeeping forces on the Line of Control between our two countries who can examine and look at these issues.

We're not training, we're not sending, we are prepared to have observers at the Line of Control to testify to the world. But India is not agreeing to that. Now we feel that India is trying to divert attention from the genuine demands of the Kashmiri people, internationally recognised, by blaming Pakistan without cause.

Q: Okay let me give you an example of what the Indian government calls Pakistan's complicity in terrorism in Kashmir. Mast Gul, who the Indian government believes is responsible for the blowing up of the Charar-e-Sharif shrine, was only a week ago given access to Pakistan television to publicly accuse and threaten India. Now if you are not associated with terrorism then why are such people given such facilities in your country?

A: First I would like to say that Mast Gul had nothing to do with the burning of the Charar-e-Sharif. It was burnt down by the same man who attacked the Golden Temple.

He did it before in east Punjab and he did it again in Kashmir.

Q: How do you know this?

A: Because he was the brigadier-in-charge and now he is the general-in-charge.

Q: You are talking of an Indian Army officer.

A: Yes, yes, yes... I can't remember his name unfortunately but my office can give it to you later. He was the Brigadier who led the assault on the Golden Temple.

Q: You're saying, Prime Minister, that the Indian Army itself burnt down the shrine.

A: Yes. Because there were people they wanted who were holed up there, they wanted to flush them out and that is why they went and committed this sacrilegious act. And it was not the first time.

Q: So you're dismissing the Indian government claim that Mast Gul was responsible and the fact that he is a wanted man in India.

A: I don't know whether he is a wanted man in India or not. As far as Mast Gul is concerned we learnt from the papers that he had arrived into Pakistan and I believe that he has arrived into Pakistan through the Jamaat-i-Islami and we're taking this matter up with the Jamaat-i-Islami.

Q: And he will not make any further such statements against India?

A: My Foreign Minister actually does the micro-management of political implications. He was in Afghanistan when the situation took place and we were surprised to read in the press that the Jamaat-i-Islami had taken Mast Gul on tour and that he had come on TV.

Of course a lot of Pakistanis have a great degree of admiration for him because they feel he escaped from the hands of the Indians and that he was raising his voice for Kashmir. But as far as the government is concerned we do not believe it is appropriate for our international standing or for the Kashmiri freedom struggle to have the Jamaat-i-Islami take a person, even if he is highly regarded, around in this fashion.

Q: Okay, your statement that Mast Gulf will not be on TV any more will be very reassuring to the Indian government. Let me put another of their concerns to you....

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A: I think I'll like to clear that we were not aware of him being brought on television and I think the television showed a meeting of the Jamaat-i-Islami because our television does show other political leaders.

And I think that as he was with the Jamaat-i-Islami he came on as part of the Jamaat-i-Islami rally in Pakistan. That is how he came on. Not because the government of Pakistan was aiding or abetting or siding with him, not because the government of Pakistan brought him on television and said to the people of Pakistan that look we're supporting this but because PTV in its normal course without any consultation of the foreign office or anybody else showed a Jamaat- i-Islami rally and Mast Gul happened to be at the Jamaat-i-Islami rally.

Q: Alright Prime Minister, that'll be very reassuring to many people. Let me put to you another concern. At the moment there are some five European and American tourists held hostage by the Kashmiri militants. Now your government has denied any connection with the group, Al-Faran, that's responsible.

But an ally of yours and a member of the Pakistani Senate, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, has publicly said that he's been approached by the British and American envoys as well as by the Al-Faran members to intercede. Doesn't that suggest he has got connections with these terrorists?

A: He has no connection with Al-Faran. I'll put it to you. Who are these Al-Faran? And this kidnapping of the hostages, has it helped the Kashmiris? Or has it really helped the Indian government in its propaganda against the Kashmiri uprising.

People in Pakistan believe that the Al-Faran group is a creation of the Indian intelligence and that this atrocious act of kidnapping hostages was masterminded by them to discredit the Kashmiri movement. And the Al-Faran group, somebody has obviously given them, and we think it's the Indian intelligence, certain numbers because here in the middle of the valley, where you don't have telephone directories and numbers of Pakistan, this man can pick up a phone and he can ring up the British embassy and say 'Please speak to Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman'. And then he can ring up Maulana Fazlur- Rehman and say can you intercede, can you talk to the British or something like that.

And we asked Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman. He said I don't know, I've never heard of them, they called me up, the British came and I considered it my duty, not to close the door because if I did and somebody was killed the repercussion would be far worse. So therefore when they reached out to him, keeping in mind the safety and sanctity of the hostages and not wanting any retaliation against the hostages, he didn't shut the door.

But he and the Pakistanis are very surprised that this not-known Al-Faran group suddenly emerges, kidnaps British hostages to discredit the Kashmiri movement, plays into the hands of the Indian government and in the valley has the telephone numbers very conveniently of the British Embassy in Islamabad and Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman.

Q. Okay, Kashmir is only one element of Indo-Pak relations. The Indian government believes that it's repeatedly offered talks to your government without pre-conditions and you've repeatedly turned them down. Why?

A: We've never turned down. Never. Just recently I saw a statement of Prime Minister Rao in which he said that there is no point in talking to Pakistan. I don't know whether he finds it difficult, what is the reason? Because we have been very keen to see talks between India and Pakistan.

Q: Let me give you a specific example of what the Indian government believes is your recalcitrance, your hesitation to actually take relations further. Both Pakistan and India are members of the World Trade Organization and as members it's incumbent upon them to give each other most favoured nation status.

India has accorded this status to Pakistan, your government has not reciprocated. Why?

A: Maybe it's some bureaucratic inertia. Pakistan is a responsible international player, we keep all our international commitments, and if we are members of the WTO and this is a commitment I see no reason why Pakistan would not live up to its commitment irrespective of the dispute we have with India.

Q: When? This will be very reassuring.

A: Well, I have just... You've just sprung this on me. As I said to you, we keep all our international commitments and if this is a commitment that Pakistan has made at the WTO and if there is any delay in it, it would be a bureaucratic delay, it would not be a political delay.

Q: So the Indian government can look forward to a reciprocation of MFN-status very soon.

A: If this is a commitment that Pakistan had made at the WTO. Pakistan keeps all its commitments.

I wish India would keep its commitments. Why can't India say 'Alright we're prepared to sit for talks with Pakistan'. There will be two agendas. One agenda will be the Indo-Pak dispute and one agenda will be the Kashmir dispute.

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Why can't they sit down and say that to us. We could start talking tomorrow

Q: If they agree to that will you start talking tomorrow?

A: Yes we have proposed it to them. We have said we have given you our two non-papers, one is on the Indo-Pak and one is on the Kashmir dispute.

And if they're ready to talk on our two non-papers—which they rejected and we rejected their six non papers—we are prepared to have talks on all the rejected non-papers tomorrow.

Q: On August 5 Mr Narasimha Rao, on his return from Malaysia, said to journalists that he will be happy to talk to Pakistan without pre-conditions. Can you take that offer?

A: But why does he say without pre-conditions. This is what they said in December 1993 that we'll talk about Kashmir, but they never talked. So when they say they are prepared to talk without preconditions, they're implying that they are prepared to talk about Kashmir.

If they're implying that they are prepared to talk about Kashmir then why not state it an overt, clear, clean-cut manner.

Q: Why don't you call their bluff and try it?

A: Because the last time when we had talks we ended up with the Hazratbal siege and the government was highly embarrassed and we don't want to walk again into an embarrassing situation.

Our fingers have been burnt once and it is very difficult for us to burn our fingers again. But what we're saying is that if the Indian government is prepared to talk about any subject including Kashmir why cannot it say 'okay, one of the agenda items will be Kashmir dispute'. We'll have talks tomorrow if they can say that.

Q: As you put it, so much of the problem between India and Pakistan are the misperceptions on either side. Let me give you another example of misperceptions. Every time Pakistan acquires arms, whether it's M-11s from China whether it's the recent package being talked about that may come from America, the Indians believe that it is going to be used against them.

Can you reassure the Indian people and the Indian government that any new arms that Pakistan may acquire will not be used across the border against India?

A: Now this is another sore point. Number one we don't have M- 11 missiles. Why does India keep on propagating when we do not have missiles which are outside...

Q: Many American Senators think you do.

A: That's because of all this Indian information. When we do not have missiles outside NBCT [expansion unknown] why does India repeatedly make this accusation against Pakistan and vitiate the atmosphere?

Number two, in June 1989, the US and Pakistan negotiated for 60 F-16s and for a 4.6 billion dollar package of assistance, military and economic, to Pakistan. Rajiv Gandhi did not say that it upset the balance of power here. He did not say that.

Now we are not getting the F-16s, we are not getting the 4.6 billion package, we're just getting what we paid for. Our money or equipment that's all. We are not getting the 4.6 billion. We're not getting the F-16s.

For Rajiv Gandhi that didn't disturb the balance of power in the subcontinent because he wanted to solve the issues. But Narasimha Rao, we cannot understand, why he's going to town when we're not getting 4.6 billion we're not getting F-16s. Why does he do this?

Q: May I make a suggestion, why don't you say today that whatever you get will not be used against India and you will reassure people right across the border. Why can't you just say that?

A: Because I see no reason why if I have to get something for my defence I have to go and reassure big brother across the border. I think this is a problem. India must recognise that Pakistan is an equal partner. The attitude by India that somehow or the other it's big brother, I think that's what bothers Pakistanis because Pakistanis begin to think that, 'Oh has India really accepted our independence?'

We had Bangladesh and now India is behaving this way. So therefore I would say it's very important for India not to make a hullabaloo when Pakistan does something which is within its own defence which is within its own security.

And it's also very important that Mr Narasimha Rao at least show the courtesy to Mr Rajiv Gandhi. If Rajiv Gandhi could accept more for Pakistan without making a fuss, why is Mr Rao making a fuss with less. I don't know.

Q: Ms. Bhutto you're very good at playing one Indian Prime Minister against another Indian Prime Minister. That is the politician in you, isn't it?

A: I would not like to play one Indian Prime Minister against another but as a Pakistani Prime Minister who's dealt with two Indian Prime Ministers I would like to ask a simple question that why is it that there is a sea change in the attitude from one Indian Prime Minister to another? And I feel some of the deadlock is due to the sea change.

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Q: Let met ask you a simple question, which I think people in your country as much as India want answered. To many it looks as if India and Pakistan have become obsessed with each other to their mutual detriment. Can you see these two countries breaking out of this regressive syndrome?

A: Well there are hawks on both sides, and there are doves on both sides.

Q: Which are you?

A: Well, sometimes I'm a hawk sometimes a dove. It depends on the objective situation and the threat perception. But I would like to...

Q: You're not confused are you?

A: No I'm not confused. But I would like to see India and Pakistan sit down seriously at the negotiating table defining the agenda and move on the basis of the agenda.

I think there was a lot that India and Pakistan were able to do when I was Prime Minister and Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister and I do believe that if Mr Rao could somehow rise above partisan considerations or perhaps pre-Partition... I don't know how to say it...

Q: Problems?...

A: Yes, I think if somehow he can rise above that why can't he say that India recognised at the UN that this is a disputed territory and it does not lessen India, it adds to India if India says yes, we made this commitment, we're prepared to talk about it.

Q: So if India comes half-way will you meet them 50 per cent of the way?

A: Of course.

Q: Do you think this will happen?

A: You must ask Mr Rao.

Q: Prime Minister, I want to talk to you about what possibly is the most serious problem you are facing at the moment—Karachi. Over a thousand people have been killed this year and although you are having talks with the Muhajir movement, the killings are continuing. Why is Karachi failing to come under control?

A: The situation in Karachi. Actually, a part of Karachi, has deteriorated since the last ten years, but since there was no separation between politics and terrorism, the situation did not get better.

We've had some good catches and infiltration into the terrorist movement and we believe that as the terrorist part subsides, the political side will emerge stronger.

Q: It's often been said abroad and it's sometimes even said in your country that you are not perhaps seriously responding to the need to make concessions because you have a Sindhi vote to worry about. Do you find yourself politically trapped between the Mohajirs and the Sindhis?

A: Not at all. Muhajirs and Sindhis have always lived together side by side, always intermarried, Pakistan is going to be 50 years old in 1997. So we are all Pakistanis and there are no problems between Sindhis and settlers in Sindh.

The death figures you see are not deaths between security forces and militants. These deaths are largely by the Altaf group who kidnap people and kill them. They kidnap innocent people who are opposed to their politics and kill them.

Despite that the death rate in Karachi is lower than it is in Washington or New York. I wish I had the figures for New Delhi. I do know this much though that our police force controlling the city of Karachi is smaller than the police force of New Delhi.

Q: It's often said that an indication of your seriousness is the fact that you called the MQM [Mujahir Qaumi Movement] leadership, I may be misquoting, "cowardly rats". Is that a charge you might now like to withdraw?

A: I have called terrorists cowardly rats. I have not called any party or any person by any name. I have called...

Q: So the MQM leadership are not cowardly rats?

A: I will give you my exact speech . Four rangers were ambushed and brutally killed and I said that those persons who arranged for this cowardly attack were cowards and that they were rats.

Q: But it was not the MQM leadership you were talking about. That's the clarification I wanted.

A: I have given you the exact quote. Altaf (Hussain) of course misquoted my speech but I don't think the people of Pakistan believe Altaf.

Q: What do you say to people who comment that Karachi is Ms Bhutto's "make or break" situation. What do you say to that?

A: Karachi is not a make or break situation, either for me or for my country. But Karachi was waiting for a Karachiite like myself—somebody who was born in Karachi someone who cares for Karachi, somebody whose children have to go along with other school children to schools in Karachi—to come and restore peace to Karachi.

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MQM Offers 'Peace Formula' to Government

BK0609132195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Sept 5 — MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] has offered a peace formula to the government, which it suggests should be enforced in Karachi on an experimental basis it calls for a ten-day truce under which rangers should be asked to pull back to barracks, and Altaf party would undertake to keep a vigil on violators of law.

The suggestion was mooted at the sixth round of talks which the two sides held at the Governor's House in Karachi on September 3. Simultaneously, MQM is also exploring other avenues to defuse tension in the strife-torn city of Karachi.

Sources here said that if the seventh round of negotiations, to be held on September 7, fails, the Altaf party may seek to establish direct contact with Asif Zardari, Army Chief General Waheed, President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

It may also suggest posting of observers inl future round of negotiations Neither of these options have been given shape as yet, but insiders in the party feel that the government negotiating team of N D Khan has not been up to the mark.

The two sides have been face to face on six different occasions, in Karachi and at Islamabad since July 11, and have yet to make a real headway.

They, according to reliable sources here, were confronted with a number of ideas, including formation of joint terms for supervising peace in the strife-torn cities of Karachi and Hyderabad.

The MQM suggested Rangers should end the stage around Muhajir localities on an experimental basis for ten days at least. The government should withdraw Rangers to barracks. The MQM would undertake to mobilise its teams to ensure that violence is avoided in its strongholds.

In case of violation of this truce agreement, the MQM government team should visit the affected areas, and catch those responsible for creating troubles. Both sides should jointly investigate the causes, and punish the culprits.

But the government response to their proposals has been negative N D Khan and two others helping him on the negotiating table, refrained from giving any positive reply.

Ajmal Dehlvi finally had to tell the newsmen at the end of the sixth round of the parleys held here on September 3, that the government side had expressed helplessness in the matter.

He even disclosed Tuesday [5 September] his opposite number had raised totally irrelevant points at the last session. The government objections to his statement about possible Indian intervention in Karachi, was more of an attempt to buy time.

The MQM chief negotiator told the Law Minister that even the Prime Minister, President Farooq laghari, and a Foreign Office spokesman, had apprehended such an eventually. He also clairifed to the government side that MQM had written no letter to Afghan government, but the communication addressed to Beijing women's conference, was a compulsion forced on the MQM.

The rangers had made the MQM task difficult of keeping its followers under control. They had felt agitated over the repeated assaults on ladies and elderly people in Muhajir areas.

Radio Reports 7 Killed in Karachi Incidents

BK0709143095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, seven persons, including a woman, were killed in different incidents today. The police arrested 35 persons involved in different crimes from various areas of the city today. Illegal arms and narcotics were recovered from them.

Bhutto, Politicians Discuss Punjab Situation

BK0709162895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the Parliament Committee on Kashmir and National Assembly member, and former caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Lahore today and exchanged views on the current political situation in the country, especially in Punjab. Several members of the National Assembly and the Punjab Assembly, as well as many former provincial ministers belonging to the Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF] from various divisions, also called on Prime Minister Bhutto this afternoon. They discussed the current political situation and expressed their confidence in the leadership of the prime minister. Retired Lieutenant General Raja Saroop Khan, the Punjab governor, and Pakistan People's Party central committee leaders were also present on the occasion.

Nawaz Khokar, a National Assembly member belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Nawaz Group, also called on the prime minister and exchanged views on political issues with reference to the current political

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situation in Punjab. He said later, in an interview with a Radio Pakistan representative, that the president's step to suspend the Punjab government was legal. It was aimed at ending the crisis that had been created due to the wrong actions of former Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo.

Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Mian Manzoor Ahmad Mahol and 19 provincial assembly members have expressed their trust in the leadership of PML-Junejo Group President Hamid Nasir Chattha and have said that they would carry out all his directives for the formation of a new government in the province. Expressing full confidence in Prime Minister Bhutto also, they have stated that the PDF will emerge as a much stronger coalition. An announcement to this effect was made at a joint news conference in Lahore this evening by Mahol and 16 other provincial assembly members. The names of those present at the news conference are: Mian Ata Mohammad Manika, Mohammad Arif Chattha, Sardar Arif Nakai, Aslam Kachi, Roy Ejaz, Chaudhary Sadakat Ali, Ahmad Hussain, Kulsh Akhtar Subhani, Chaudhary Khwaja Hussain, Mohammad Tahir Shah, Zahir Mazari, Tariq Amir, Saleh Ganjial, Armokam Subhani, and Khaled Javed Seth, and Hamid Parvez Warraich.

Bhutto-Opponent Political Battle Looms in Punjab

BK0809095195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 8 (AFP) — A political battle for Pakistan's key province of Punjab intensified Friday [8 September] as the ousted chief minister switched his allegiance to opponents of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Punjab was plunged into political crisis Tuesday when President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, a former political associate of Bhutto, imposed direct rule from Islamabad, suspending the Punjab assembly for two months and sacking Chief Minister Manzoor Ahmed Watto.

Watto, of the Pakistan Mulsim League-Juneo (PML-J) faction which formed a shaky coalition with Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has now announced an alliance with Nawaz Sharif, who heads the mainstream opposition Pakistan Muslim League.

Political observers say Bhutto was behind the decision to impose direct rule in Punjab after the 16 members of her PPP in the coalition resigned, accusing the chief minister of ignoring their demands.

Bhutto wants her PPP to establish complete control in Punjab, where it played a secondary role in the partnership with Watto's PML-J set up after the 1993 general election.

Watto's defection to Sharif has now split the Juneo faction. Part of it, headed by Hamid Nasir Chatta, has decided to stay allied with the PPP.

Bhutto is currently in Lahore trying to muster enough support to ensure election of a PPP chief minister in Punjab. Control of the province, Pakistan's wealthiest and home to 60 percent of the nation's 130 million people, is considered vital for the stability of a federal government.

Political commentators said Sharif could mount a challenge to Bhutto's party when the Punjab assembly is convened to elect a new chief minister.

Sharif's party has 96 deputies in the 248-member Punjab assembly against 106 for the PPP. The PML-J and independent deputies making up the remainder.

Sri Lanka

Minister Sets Condition for Talks With LTTE

BK0609121095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is ready to consider peace talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] if they propose to come through proper channels and the planned agenda. Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said that the LTTE from time to time had put forward various proposals in favor of their advantage.

The minister was speaking to newsmen at a function in Colombo yesterday to receive donations to the National Defense Fund.

Referring to an item in the newspaper, Col. Ratwatte said that the government was not officially informed of the murder of two members of the crew of the ferry, Iris Moana, held by the LTTE off Mullaittivu. He said that the government will not allow the movement of this ferry from its present location unless the ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross] submitted a written certificate to the effect that Iris Moana was not booby-trapped and was clear of any explosive devices. However, Col. Ratwatte cautioned that the security forces would not hesitate to destroy the ferry if the LTTE attempted to move it from the present location, disregarding the government's warning.

Parliament Passes Motion To Extend Emergency

BK0709125495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The motion to extend the emergency in the north and east and several other

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Secretaries Divisions by another month has been passed in Parliament by a majority of 41 votes. One hundred and twenty voted for the motion and 79 voted against it.

Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, winding up the debate, said that the present defense policy of the government was not to permanently maintain security forces camps in the Eastern Province. The previous regime followed such a policy. He said that the government's objective was to defeat the terrorists in the north whilst ensuring the security in the east. An effective strategy is now being implemented to achieve this goal.

Reportage on Passenger Ferry Held by Tamil Rebels

Rebels Demand Exchange for 'Fighters'

BK0609152795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas demanded the release of two female fighters in exchange for a passenger ferry and eight-man crew they have held hostage for more than a week, Tamil sources said Wednesday [6 September].

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) demanded that two women of the Sea Tiger unit now in police custody be exchanged for the government-chartered ferry, the Iris Moana, and its civilian crew, the sources said.

The navy captured the two women, described as teenagers, off the island's northern Jaffna peninsula in mid-July.

Tamil sources said the LTTE's demand had been conveyed to the authorities through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Most of the 136 passengers aboard the Iris Moana were released to the ICRC Wednesday after an eight-day ordeal.

But the ferry and crew will be released only after direct negotiations with the government, the LTTE had told the ICRC. It was not immediately clear if the government had agreed to the swap.

Rebels Agree To Free Passengers

BK0609112495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP)—The Tamil Tiger rebels Wednesday [6 September] released "most of the passengers" from a hijacked ferry, as the Sri Lankan government vowed to destroy the vessel if it was used against security forces, officials said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that it had freed civilians who travelled on the Iris Moana but the fate of the eight-man crew would be dealt with separately.

"We were told by the LTTE that most of the passengers are free and that the eight-man crew is safe," said Paul Fruh, deputy head of the ICRC here. The ICRC has been mediating since the Tigers seized the ferry eight days ago.

Tamil travellers from LTTE-held areas had earlier said two of the eight-man crew had been killed. There was no news about two navy sailors the LTTE captured from two gunboats that went to the aid of the Iris Moana last Tuesday. [passage omitted]

The ICRC said that the LTTE had promised to show them the passengers who were freed in the main rebel stronghold of northern Jaffna peninsula on Wednesday afternoon.

"After we see the passengers, we will decide how to get them out of the peninsula," Fruh said, adding they were to be taken to a string of government-held islets located just west of the Jaffna peninsula.

However, it was not immediately clear if the passengers would be free to leave Jaffna where the LTTE has a strict visa system for people leaving their de facto separate state there.

The Commissioner-General of Essential Services, which chartered the Iris Moana, has offered to help evacuate the passengers if the ICRC was able to bring them to the government-held port of Kankesanthurai in the peninsula.

Military officials here said they would only believe that passengers had been freed if the hostages were able to get out of the Jaffna peninsula.

The LTTE had told the ICRC that they did not consider the Tamil passengers as hostages and therefore the question of freeing them did not arise, the ICRC spokesman said. Passengers included 15 children under the age of seven years.

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